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CONTADORA, C.A. MINISTERS MEET, ISSUE DOCUMENT

PA291510 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 29 Jul 83 pp 40, 18

[Excerpt] The Contadora Group and Central American foreign ministers have begun a new round of talks, perhaps the most important one, to try to prevent violence and war in the region.

The group, headed by Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado, has resumed a very serious dialogue in view of the grave threats of an armed confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua if no positive solution comes out of this third meeting.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has asked that something more energetic for the region's peace emerge from the Contadora Group meeting that began last night in Panama.

Meanwhile, in Honduras, the army commander has said that if no agreement is reached in the Contadora Group meeting, "Honduras is prepared for military confrontation with Nicaragua."

Foreign Ministers Comment

PA291600 Panama City MATUTINO In Spanish 29 Jul 83 pp 1, 8-A

[By Roberto R. Rodriquez]

[Excerpts] Almost 3 hours late, the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and their Central American counterparts last night began work sessions in an atmosphere of "urgency" due to the development of the regional conflict in the past few days.

The Contadora Group foreign ministers met for more than 5 hours prior to the joint meeting of the nine foreign ministers. They analyzed recent events in the region and the brief visit that Presidents Ricardo de la Espriella and Belisario Betancur made yesterday to Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala in order to incorporate those elements into the working sessions.

The working procedure is the same one established in the previous meetings and its agenda falls in line with the working documents of the Cancun and Contadora Declarations and the four points that were previously agreed upon unanimously.

Shortly before the meeting of the four Contadora Group ministers, Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado told MATUTINO that the working document prepared for the third joint meeting is the result of a prior meeting of the foreign ministers, which in turn led to the Cancun document.

Without providing further details, Amado indicated that "there is enough material to begin and to advance on many topics in which points of coincidence have been reached" on the difficult path of achieving formulas for the pacification of Central America.

Nevertheless, Amado said that this is "a race against time," stressing the need to "take prudent steps" to achieve "specific advances in the search for peace agreements."

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo predicted that in the next few hours it will be known whether a dialogue that leads to peace in Central America is possible. He also stressed that this meeting will define once and for all "whether we will proceed to action and to dialogue."

Lloreda indicated that in recent months there have been many problems and that apparently Nicaragua and Honduras are preparing for a possible confrontation, but that "this does not mean that Contadora will stop its efforts or give up."

Commenting on the Honduran and Salvadoran decision to request aid from the United States, the Colombian foreign minister said that "those are sovereign decisions of those countries, just as Nicaragua has also requested aid from its Soviet and Cuban friends."

Further Amado Comments

PA311241 Paris AFP in Spanish 2337 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Panama City, 30 Jul (AFP) -- "The diplomatic effort is not the only important element" in reaching a peace agreement; "the participation of other sectors, such as the armed forces of the Central American countries, is also necessary," Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado said.

"The armed forces should participate not only in the military aspect, but also in the effort for permanent peace," Amado pointed out this afternoon at the end of the third joint meeting of the Contadora Group -- Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico -- and the Central American foreign ministers, in which no definite agreement was reached for detente in the area.

Amado said that President Reagan's statements on Central America, in which he reiterated his determination to fight communist subversion in the region and minimized the repercussions of the military maneuvers in the area, was not discussed by the nine foreign ministers during the 3-day meeting in this capital.

According to Amado, the meeting "was positive toward understanding, coordination, and hemispheric integration," adding that the presence of a U.S. Navy fleet near the coasts of Central America "does not contribute to peace," but instead is "cause for concern."

Although hoped-for agreements were not reached, Amado termed the meeting as "positive" because "the approach was different."

Amado said that advances were made and that points of agreement were reached, but he admitted that there are still differences in the positions presented by representatives of the Central American countries.

Nevertheless, he added, "we are going to subtract the points of agreement from those in which we differ, and the result will be expressed in an agreement of intent.

With regard to the agreement of intent, which will be signed in August at the fourth joint meeting, Amado said that "it is necessary that we agree fully so that our work is more solid" and can guarantee peace for Central America.

D'Escoto Seeks Stand On Fleet

PA291545 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Panama City -- Upon his arrival in Panama yesterday, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto said he hopes that the foreign ministers of Contadora and Central America will take a stand regarding the existing difficult situation and ask the U.S. Government to withdraw it fleet immediately.

Our foreign minister made these remarks upon his arrival in Panama City, where he will participate in the seventh Contadora Group meeting, the third held jointly with the five Central American foreign ministers.

Asked about the meeting of Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Honduran foreign ministers on 19 July, D'Escoto said that such meetings cannot help Contadora because they constitute an effort to create a policy of blocs which ties them down and prevents their responding with greater options and freedom to suggestions made by Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela.

This policy, he added, does not promote the main goal of pacification and thus contributes to promoting the so-called democratic community and the so-called forum for democracy, both initiatives of President Reagan's government.

D'Escoto on Receiving USSR Arms

PA291921 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1813 GMT 29 Jul 83

[By Walker Simon]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 29 Jul (LATIN-REUTER) -- While nine Latin American foreign ministers resumed peace talks, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said today that he would gladly receive Soviet arms shipments unless the United States suspends its aggressive policies. D'Escoto said that Nicaragua would not accept a stoppage of weapons deliveries to Central America -- one of the main points of the ministers' peace plan -- in the face of U.S. military maneuvers scheduled to start next month.

"The United States is displaying its military strength to show its Central American friends that it can increase its pressure on Nicaragua without sitting down to negotiate seriously with us," he told REUTERS today. He added that he would welcome Soviet weapons unless Washington eases the pressure being exerted on Nicaragua.

Last night Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica praised the U.S. naval maneuvers, which include 2 aircraft carriers and 140 fighters, calling them a decisive measure implemented by Washington to dissuade Nicaragua from attacking Honduras. Paz Barnica noted yesterday that 12 Soviet ships with weapons on board were on their way to Nicaragua. D'Escoto replied that he didn't know anything about the alleged shipment, but that he hoped the information was true.

D'Escoto told REUTERS that he applauded the action taken by the U.S. House of Representatives last night to suspend aid to the Nicaraguan rebels and noted that it is "a serious political defeat for President Ronald Reagan in Central America." The Nicaraguan foreign minister pointed out that the House vote would not immediately affect the funds for the rebels and that the bill was facing an almost certain defeat in the Senate, controlled by the Republicans.

"What is important is that the vote shows that most Americans reject the Reagan policy for Central America," D'Escoto remarked. [Havana International Service in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 30 July, in a report citing D'Escoto on the U.S. House vote, adds the following: "In a statement for the press in Panama City, D'Escoto pointed out that the U.S. people oppose any interventionist policy in Central America, and added that his country is willing to receive and assess any initiative that is intended to achieve peace in the region."]

D'Escoto on Maneuvers

PA292030 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Report by ANN correspondent Estela Caloni, from Panama -- live relay]

[Excerpts] The policy of blocs does not lead to peace, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has said, expressing hope for specific solutions and for a call by the foreign ministers meeting here for the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. fleet from the region. D'Escoto said that all maneuvers should be suspended while negotiations within the framework of the Contadora Group are underway.

The formation of blocs such as that made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala has resulted in an obstacle to the Contadora efforts. D'Escoto said today that in previous meetings a Central American country has turned down proposals, alleging that it must agree with the others in order to accept them. Therefore, it is evident that blocs are in action and that they decrease the freedom that a country has to make decisions.

In addition, it is expected that U.S. special envoy for Central America Richard Stone will arrive here to talk with the nine foreign ministers.

Meanwhile, in this country, just as during the latest Contadora meetings, a campaign is underway with regard to the passage of a Soviet ship on its way to Nicaragua and El Salvador. D'Escoto called this campaign a strange coincidence because the United States has also reported from Washington that there are 10 Soviet ships sailing to Nicaragua and that they are loaded with weapons.

D'Escoto said that this campaign is being carried out to alarm the world and create impact at a time when the Contadora efforts are underway. To make things worse, a U.S. Embassy spokesman told the progovernment evening newspaper LA REPUBLICA that the Reagan administration is undoubtedly trying to persuade or intimidate the Nicaraguan Government.

The spokeman said that the U.S. naval maneuvers are aimed at reinforcing the Contadora negotiating stand. However, the remarks that caused concern in political circles was his admission that shooting could occur between the Marines and the Nicaraguan troops, as well as between the Marines and the Salvadoran rebels because the rebels and the Nicaraguan troops might provoke the Marines. Thus, it was reported that the U.S. troops have specific instructions not to fire first.

D'Escoto Views Meeting

PA301702 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Telephone interview by unidentified reporter with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, in Panama City; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We have contacted Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, who is in Panama participating in the meeting of foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and Central America. We are going to talk with Foriegn Minister D'Escoto so that he can tell the people listening to this newscast about the latest discussions of the foreign ministers. This is an exclusive interview. Go ahead, Mr Foreign Minister.

[D'Escoto] What I can tell you is that among the Central American foreign ministers there is a general tendency to accept the Cancun document as a basis.

All the Central American foriegn ministers have contributed to expanding on the subjects considered in the Cancun communique and to adding other subjects also of vital importance for securing peace in the Central American area.

[Reporter] Regarding Nicaragua's peace proposal of 19 July, has it been discussed?

[D'Escoto] This document was also introduced and accepted as an official document. Nicaragua's proposals reiterate the six points of our National Directorate and our government, and they are included in this document.

[Reporter] It was reported in Managua yesterday that a plane from Honduras had fired rockets at the island of El Cardon and that a U.S. frigate is sailing in Nicaraguan waters. Have you told the foreign ministers about this?

[D'Escoto] We have reported the general situation, obviously. The fact that Nicaragua is besieged by U.S. warships does not contribute to a good atmosphere for holding negotiations in the Contadora Group context. The Contadora Group foreign ministers especially realize this. For obvious reasons, some of the Central American foreign ministers appear satisfied and happy to be surrounded by U.S. Navy ships.

[Reporter] Will the meeting end today, Mr Foreign Minister?

[D'Escoto] Yes, it will conclude today, at about noon, I suppose. This morning the foreign ministers will have breakfast with President Ricardo de la Espriella. Later we will go to Fort Amador to place a wreath at the new burial site of General Omar Torrijos Herrera. Then we will resume the meeting. We will agree on a final communique, a press communique to be issued on the results of this meeting. It is possible that an advance will be made regarding the effort to find concurrence among the various proposals made by the Central American foreign ministers on changes to the basic Cancun document.

[Reporter] Can you tell us anything about the final declaration of this meeting?

[D'Escoto] In fact, there will be no final declaration. It will be a press communique on the results of the meeting. I believe this communique will note that advances have been made, and that they are more significant than those achieved at previous meetings. In any event, we will all work on that at approximately 1030 today.

[Reporter] Will you be returning to Managua today, Mr Foreign Minister?

[D'Escoto] Yes. I will return to Nicaragua immediately after the meeting.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, thank you very much for this statement for Radio Sandino of Managua, Nicaragua.

[D'Escoto] Thank you.

Volio on Contadora Efforts

PA312145 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Interview with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez, by journalist Julio Miller; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Miller] Mr Foreign Minister, what is your opinion of the Contadora Group's efforts, in view of the fact that a 14-ship Soviet fleet is currently on its way to Nicaragua carrying high-explosive materiel?

[Volio] I am extremely puzzled about the great international commotion over U.S. fleet maneuvers in Central American waters, since nothing is being said by the same international community about these 14 ships and other ships that have arrived in Nicaragua over many years -- 4 years -- with war materiel. This has altered the region's military balance and created an international communist threat to the entire region. It has clearly and irrefutably established the presence of the USSR and Cuba in Central America. This presence is very dangerous, not only to Central America, the entire Central American isthmus, but to all Latin America. There is an uproar about U.S. fleet maneuvers, but not about this ominous Soviet presence in our territory, Central America.

[Miller] Mr Foreign Minister, the conflict is already noticeably worse. How much longer -- until what date -- will the Contadora Group hold discussions, and what are your suggestions regarding immediate steps to be taken?

[Volio] We must have an acute sense of urgency. Enough has been said about principles, about what must be done in Central America to achieve peace, stability, respect for human rights, and the promotion of general welfare.

[Miller] Mr Foreign Minister, the efforts of the Contadora Group, begun in January, are continuing -- and almost 8 months later, no viable solution to the problem has been reached. Nicaragua has started to arm itself, causing serious concern over the possibility of an invasion of bordering Central American countries, such as your own country, Costa Rica. From what viewpoint should we consider this serious problem?

[Volio] Of course, events are proceeding at a pace that is not matched in speed or rhythm by the dynamics of diplomacy. This worries us. This is why we insist on solutions which, although complex, have a program of action for the short term. Diplomacy must act faster. In any case, the people must prepare themselves to face a Marxist-Leninist plot. They should not necessarily depend in every instance on action by the international community and diplomacy. The people -- with their own determination, their own courage -- must halt communism and open all doors to representative, participatory, pluralistic democracy.

[Miller] Mr Foreign Minister, what will really happen? Do we continue waiting, even though the Nicaraguan and Cuban Governments have expressed their plans to continue exacerbating the violent Central American situation?

[Volio] Every communist regime is expansionist, because to fulfill its objectives, international communism should and must extend communist domination everywhere. Not even the communists themselves deny this. Hence, this kind of heavily armed regime -- armed beyond its needs for national defense -- represents a threat to our peoples and to Costa Rica. The international community must, therefore, wake up from its lethargy and come to the defense of countries like Panama and Costa Rica, which want to live in freedom, in their own way.

'Points of Concurrence' Reached

PA300112 Paris AFP in Spanish 0021 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Panama City, 29 Jul (AFP) -- The four Contadora Group and the five Central American foreign ministers have reached some "points of concurrence" on possible methods of resolving the area's conflicts, according to some of the ministers participating in the meeting.

At the outset of the third working session, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto both used the expression "points of concurrence," to define the progress of the talks.

D'Escoto said that the talks, which will last until tomorrow, have shown "some progress." He expressed "moderate optimism" about the final results.

Meanwhile, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica agreed with D'Escoto that "there is concurrence" on certain points. He did not specify which points, however.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena said that "great progress has been made" in the talks yesterday and today, although he also refused to give further details.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo said that the Cancun Declaration, the declaration issued by the four Central American foreign ministers, with the exception of Nicaragua, at the outset of the year, and the 19 July Nicaraguan peace proposal "contain several aspects of concurrence that are necessary for an understanding."

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda said that the meetings are being held "in a good political climate," denying rumors of "difficulties" in the talks.

Lloreda said that a "fourth joint meeting" of the Contadora Group -- Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico -- with the foreign ministers of the five Central American countries -- Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala -- will be held here, tentatively on 16 or 18 August.

Text of 'Final Document'

PA311845 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1245 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text of 'Final Document' released to newsmen by Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado III on the third joint meeting held with the Central American foreign ministers; date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] In a further development of the diplomatic efforts for Central America, the foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, members of the so-called "Contadora Group," met with their colleagues from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on 28, 29, and 30 July in Panama City. During this third joint meeting, the evolution of the Central American situation was reviewed amid a climate of frank cordiality, and progress was achieved in the process of negotiations striving to build a stable and lasting peace in the region. To this end, the Central American foreign ministers expressed their acceptance of and offered their support for the Cancun Declaration, signed recently by the Colombian, Mexican, Panamanian, and Venezuelan presidents.

They also considered the need to establish the bases of indispensable agreements to secure that peace. By virtue of this, the Costa Rican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran foreign ministers, on their part, and the Nicaraguan foreign minister, on his part, made specific contributions regarding their respective countries' ideas and views in relation to the necessary characteristics, content, and scope of such agreements.

In order to analyze the proposals presented and identify points of concurrence, make the necessary approaches, and promote peace efforts, it was resolved to resume joint deliberations in August in Panama City.

The participants unanimously expressed their satisfaction with the constructive climate that prevailed during the course of the meetings. A new phrase has been initiated in the process of detente, characterized by fluid dialogue and a clear political will.

Given such conditions, it will be possible to establish the bases of regional political commitment that will guarantee peace, restore security, promote democracy, and stimulate cooperation for development.

On the second anniversary of the death of General Omar Torrijos Herrera, the nine foreign ministers meeting in Panama rendered a fitting tribute to his memory, placing a floral wreath at the mausoleum guarding his remains and expressing their recognition of the ideals of peace, independence, and self-determination of the peoples -- principles Omar struggled for with vision.

President Ricardo de la Espriella received the nine foreign ministers, who expressed their gratitude for his government's efforts to promote regional coexistence and for the generous hospitality accorded them by the Panamanian people.

CONTADORA GROUP REPORTEDLY SEEKS USSR SUPPORT

PA290254 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1421 GMT 28 Jul 83

[By Alejandro Carrasco]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 28 Jul (EFE) -- EFE has learned from reliable sources that the Contadora Group, which is seeking a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict, has aksed the Kremlin to express specific support for the group.

According to these sources, in a recent meeting with Geydar Aliyev, one of the highest USSR leaders, the Mexican ambassador to Moscow said that "Moscow still does not clearly understand the Contadora Group's action."

Again according to our sources, Aliyev responded that the Soviet Union has always viewed the Contadora efforts as "positive," and said that he believes it is the only road to a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict.

According to the Soviet leader, if the wish is that the Soviet Union issue joint communiques mentioning Contadora, this will be done, even if, according to other sources, it will contribute nothing new to the Kremlin stance on the issue.

So far, no mention has been made of Contadora in joint communiques issued during visits to the Soviet Union by parliamentarians from Contadora member countries.

Apparently, the Contadora members believe that it is important that the Soviet Union express support for the group. This support might be seen in the Soviet-Mexican joint communique that will be released after a visit to the USSR by Mexican parliamentarians, which begins today.

Kremlin spokesmen have noted their support for the Contadora Group's efforts, even if not openly, though they harbor doubt about the eventual success of the group's peace mission because of the Reagan administration's policy in Central America.

DE LA ESPRIELLA ON RECENT TOUR, PEACE EFFORTS

PA291955 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Jul 83 pp 1-a, 8-a

[Article by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] "We are carrying out Torrijos' mission because it was he who developed the image that Panama has at the international level," President Ricardo de la Espriella said, referring to the efforts Panama is making within the Contadora Group in the search for a Latin American solution to the Central American conflicts.

"For this reason, we are involved in the search for peace in the area," he stressed. De la Espriella added that this Latin American solution must have its own characteristics, not any imposed by a foreign power.

In an interview by MATUTINO aboard the Colombian presidential plane that took him and Colombian President Belisario Betancur on a peace tour, De la Espriella said that Betancur and he know the reality and points of view of the Cancun documents, the opinions and concerns, as well as the doubts, of the Honduran, Guatemalan, and Salvador Governments.

"This has been an educational tour because we've had the opportunity to learn about the problems they are facing in different circumstances," the Panamanian president added.

He further stated that these circumstances give them a point of reference about the evolution of events in the region and in the multilateral aspect.

However, he said that "particular aspects must be eliminated in order to seek a multilateral or bilateral agreement leading to a negotiated solution."

The Panamanian president issued a call for a constructive dialogue in Tegucigalpa on Wednesday in order to avoid the pain of violence and war, so that the Central American people can live in the peace they want so much.

After stressing the need to negotiate, because one should not try to impose one's will if one wants to reach a compromise, De la Espriella stressed that time is running out because "if no compromises are made, there will be no solutions" to the crisis.

He described as "positive" the personal contacts that Betancur and he made with the chiefs of state of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, and emphasized that "the period of time needed" can be found.

The president noted that one of the achievements of the peace tour of the three countries was the willingness of the governments to continue talking, so that the communication is not interrupted.

In conclusion, he noted that the peace efforts by Panama, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela "are not easy, but waging a war is."

DRAFT UN RESOLUTION ON FALKLANDS DISCLOSED

PY300040 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Jul 83 pp 1, 4

[Article "As the Question, So the Answer" by J. Iglesias Rouco]

[Excerpts] Our Foreign Ministry has reportedly sent a memorandum to several of its Latin American counterparts, as of 23 June, with which San Martin Palace has allegedly intended to offer the countries of the continent a "draft resolution" to be jointly submitted to the UN General Assembly in September. According to our sources, the memorandum was sent to San Jose (Costa Rica), Panama, Montevideo, Lima, and Santa Domingo. Its complete text, about which nothing has been reported to the Argentine public so far, is said to read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having examined the question of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands;

"Aware that the maintaining of colonial situations is incompatible with the UN ideal of universal peace;

"Recalling its Resolutions 1,514 of 14 December 1960, 2,065 of 16 December 1965, 3,160 of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, and 37/9 of 4 November 1982;

"Also recalling Security Council resolutions 502 of 3 April 1982 and 505 of 26 May 1982;

"Having received the secretary general's report on his mission of good offices;

"Deploring the lack of progress in compliance with General Assembly Resolution 37/9;

"Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption of the negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in order to find a peaceful and fair solution as soon as possible to the dispute of sovereignty which refers to the question of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands, thus eradicating a cause of grave concern to the Latin American region;

"Taking into account that there is a de facto cessation of hostilities in the South Atlantic and that both parties have expressed their intention of not resuming hostilities;

"Reasserting the need that both parties take into due account the interests of the population of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands, in accordnance with what has been stipulated by the General Assembly in Resolutions 2,065, 3,160, and 37/9;

"Also reasserting the UN Charter's principles not to use force or threaten to use force in international relations and to solve international controversies peacefully,

"1. Repeats its request to the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that they resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the dispute of sovereignty which refers to the question of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands;

"2. Acknowledges the secretary general's report regarding compliance with General Assembly Resolution 37/9;

"3. Asks the secretary general to continue his good offices mission in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made in paragraph 1, adopting the appropriate means toward that end;

"4. Asks the secretary general to submit a report to the General Assembly during its 39th session regarding the progress made toward compliance with the present resolution, and

"5. Decides to include the subject entitled 'Question of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands' in the provisional agenda for its 39th session period."

This Foreign Ministry draft seems to have been written at the request of London and if it is adopted it will certainly get British approval at the United Nations. There is nothing in this paper that could bother Mrs Thatcher. The intellectual anarchy of the regime and the total power vacuum have probably much to do with this product, but weariness also plays a role.

ALFONSIN NAMED HEAD OF UCR NATIONAL COMMITTEE

PY292341 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0959 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 29 Jul (TELAM) -- After a tumultuous meeting that ended early today, Raul Alfonsin, the leader of the Renewal and Change faction [RYC], was designated the new president of the Radical Party [UCR] National Committee. Contrary to Alfonsin's wishes, the Irigoyenist Affirmation Movement (MAY) will have no representatives in the committee.

Despite the fact that Alfonsin decided that all internal factions must have representatives in the Radical National Committee, MAY refused to go along, claiming that "we will not admit preconditions and if Leon is not designated, we will abandon negotiations."

Therefore, when the vote was held at 0230 [0530 GMT] today, Luis Leon and several MAY representatives had already left the Parque Norte Exhibition Center, in Buenos Aires, where the meeting was held.

In conclusion, the new committee of the Radical Civic Union, which now has a third vice president and 15 members, 6 more than the previous committee, is made up of the following leaders:

President: Raul Alfonsin
First Vice President: Victor Martinez (RYC, Cordoba)
Second Vice President: Ricardo Barrios Arrechea (RYC, Misiones)
Third Vice President: Antonio Troccoli (Buenos Aires, Authentic Balbinism)
Secretaries: Luis Caceres (RYC, Santa Fe)
Santiago Felipe Llaver (RYC, Mendoza)
Adolfo Gass (RYC, Buenos Aires)
Ricardo Daud (RYC, Salta)
Osvaldo Alvarez Guerrero (RYC, Rio Negro)
Armando Romero (RYC, Corrientes)
Sergio A. Montiel (RYC, Entre Rios)
Prospero Nievas (RYC, Jujuy)
Miguel Angel Martinez Saravia (National Line, Salta)
Treasurer: Engineer Horacio Tolosa (RYC, Buenos Aires)
Deputy Treasurer: Horacio Hueyo (Unity, Buenos Aires)

UCR PROCLAIMS ALFONSIN, MARTINEZ CANDIDATES

PY312222 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Jul 83 p 17

[Text] The Radical Party (UCR) national convention officially proclaimed Movement for Renewal and Change (MCR) leader Raul Alfonsin its presidential candidate late last night, with Victor Martinez as his running mate.

The candidates, who will also replace the 25-year-old Balbinist leadership of the UCR, were heartily cheered by party members who see in them the chance for the century old grouping, last ousted from power by military coup in 1966, to win the elections scheduled for October 30.

"Total subordination" to the law and the "continuity" in the Argentine strategy of solving all international conflicts by peaceful means are the major points of the UCR electoral platform approved by the convention on which members are relying to beat their traditional Peronist rivals at the polls.

The document also calls on "all democratic sectors" to face "the acute Argentine crisis."

It was the task of integrating the party that proved the convention's most difficult undertaking. Since the start of the meeting last Thursday, Alfonsin struggled to overcome resistance by other long-time MRC leaders who opposed the inclusion of significant party factions, such as the Authentic Balbinist Bloc, and former Senator Luis Leon's Movement for Yrigoyenist Assertion (MAY) on the executive board.

While Balbinist leader and former national deputy Antonio Troccoli was appointed to the executive board's third vice presidential position, Alfonsin failed to secure the continuity of Leon's position as secretary of the outgoing executive board.

The MAY leader, nevertheless, pledged support to the UCR's unity, emphasizing that he would work closely with the new party leadership. Although Leon admitted that the different stands of MRC and MAY regarding the convenience of nationalizing bank deposits and other matters "is yet to be debated," he said his faction would "support the electoral platform approved by the national convention."

TELEPHONE WORKERS CONFIRM 1 AUG WALKOUT

PY300335 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0039 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 29 Jul (DYN) -- Union sources report that the Federation of Telephone Workers and Employees of the Argentine Republic (FOETRA) tonight confirmed that they will stage a 24-hour strike decreed for next Monday, despite the fact that the Labor Ministry has warned the union and its 31,000 members that legal sanctions will be imposed on them if they do not suspend the strike.

At the same time, a crowded meeting held by the Telephone Workers Union Front, which is made up of the internal sectors of the now intervened Buenos Aires branch of the union, decided to join the strike and propose to the federation staging of a new strike and a mobilization in Plaza de Mayo on 8 August.

The situation concerning the salary demands of the sector worsened tonight following the failure of a 5-hour reconciliation audience held at the Labor Ministry's National Directorate of Labor Relations.

MESSAGE TO CONTADORA GROUP SUPPORTS NEGOTIATIONS

PY291343 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Acting President Aureliano Chaves has sent a message to the heads of state of the four member countries of the Contadora Group. In his message Chaves reasserts Brazil's support for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the crisis in Central America.

FRANCE'S CHEYSSON VISITS RIO, SAO PAULO 29 JULY

PY300053 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson this morning participated in a ceremony at the monument to the World War II dead in Rio de Janeiro. In an interview, Minister Cheysson said that Brazil has already attained a good level of scientific and technological development, and he reaffirmed France's interest in Brazil's growth.

During the afternoon in Sao Paulo, the French minister met with Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries [FIESP] President Luis Vidigal. The FIESP president said that France is in a position to cooperate with Brazil in the industrial sector, as well as in any other area:

[Begin Vidigal recording] France is willing to cooperate with the Brazilian industrial sector, with the Brazilian Government, without taking into account the size of enterprises. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT TO BEAR BRUNT OF SOVIET SHIP PURCHASE

PY301608 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Jul 83 p 20

[Excerpt] Carlos Viacava, director of the Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department [CACEX] yesterday told the board of CACEX that the government has decided to shoulder the responsibility assumed by the Union of Chicken Exporters [UNEF] of buying a ship from the Soviet Union, in order to firm up sales to the Soviet Union.

For the first time since the Brazilian delegation returned from Mosocw, UNEF yesterday held a lengthy meeting with CACEX technicians to establish the basic guidelines for exporting chicken during the second half of the year.

There was still a pending matter during the meeting, which is the contract the UNEF made with Soviet authorities for the purchase of a ship, a condition set by Moscow in order to continue purchasing the same or even greater amounts of Brazilian products.

The problem was partially solved during contacts with Soviet officials during Viacava's trip to Moscow 2 weeks ago. UNEF received the final word from CACEX yesterday, however, that it will no longer need to disburse the $20 million for the purchase of the ship. The government will assume the responsibility of negotiating the purchase of another type of ship, or perhaps other equipment manufactured by the same company.

THREE DYNAMITE ATTACKS DESTROY RAILROAD LINES

PY291900 Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 29 Jul (AFP) -- The national railroad company has reported that railroad service to the central and southern parts of the country was interrupted today because of three dynamite attacks. The attacks occurred during pre-dawn hours, damaging rails near the cities of San Javier (located in the central region of the country), Concepcion (located at 500 km from Santiago), and Valparaiso (main port located at 120 km from Santiago). The police reported that there were no victims and that no organization has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Railroad Traffic Normalized

PY291852 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Railroad traffic in the southern region has been normalized following a dynamite attack near the San Javier railroad station. According to the railroad company public relations department, the dynamite attack occurred at km 270 on the southern sector of the main railroad line, near the San Javier station. The attack, which had the characteristics of a terrorist attack, destroyed approximately 50 meters of rail. Railroad emergency crews repaired the damage immediately and traffic was normalized shortly after noon today.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS GABRIEL VALDES' RELEASE

PY300124 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] By a four-to-one vote, the First Chamber of the Supreme Court has upheld a ruling by the Eighth Chamber of the Court of Appeals. The ruling, which concerns the case of the printing of leaflets, ordered the release of Gabriel Valdes and five other people, three of whom had been indicted for allegedly breaking the State Security Law. On this occasion, the Supreme Court was made up of Justices Estanislao Zuniga, Enrique Correa, (Osvaldo Herbeta), and (Abrahan Nelson).

PINOCHET UNDERGOES MINOR EYE SURGERY 28 JULY

PY301500 Paris AFP in Spanish 1421 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Santiago, 30 Jul (AFP) -- The Santiago newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS today reported that Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet underwent minor surgery on one of his eyes on Thursday night. The 1-hour operation was performed at the Military Hospital in this capital, the report states. General Pinochet rested on Friday and it is presumed that he will resume work at La Moneda Palace (the seat of government) on Monday, the report adds.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIGURES -- The Central Bank has reported that from 1974 to date, 80 percent of authorized foreign investment went to the mining sector, where 47 projects have been implemented amounting to $5.7 billion. The industrial and services sectors received $629 million and $619 million, respectively. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jul 83 PY]

12 PEOPLE KILLED BY FARC, EPL GUERRILLAS

PA280510 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] Bucaramanga -- There has been a new peasant massacre in Sabana de Torres municipality. Four men and two women were murdered by a group of presumed members of the clandestine FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia]. A guerrilla column, consisting of some 15 men carrying modern firearms and wearing army uniforms, broke into La Primavera farm in Sabana de Torres and riddled farmers Celedonio Cabrera and Marco Antonio Ramirez, and two women identified as Maria Rodriguez de Leon and her daughter Emma with machinegun and pistol fire. The indentities of the other two dead men were not disclosed by the authorities, who initiated a special operation to locate the criminals. So far this year, more than 50 agricultural workers have been murdered for refusing to cooperate with the subversives.

Meanwhile, in Medellin, six people were killed in the last few hours by the so-called Popular Liberation Army [EPL]. Antioquia police reported that the dead were found tied and shot; some had been hanged. Cose to the bodies were placards reading: 91 people still to be executed, as well as some government officials. Two of the six people killed by the EPL were identified as Dario Antonio Valderrama Cardona, 31, and Mauricio Taborda, 24.

According to police statistics, more than 400 people have been murdered under similar circumstances so far this year.

AMNESTY 'FAILS'; M-19 TO PROPOSE NEW PEACE PLAN

PA291500 Paris AFP in Spanish 1037 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Jul (AFP) -- The Colombian 19 April Movement (M-19) will issue a new peace proposal, probably in agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the M-19 High Command announced here today. The M-19 added that it will do so in view of "the total failure of the amnesty decreed by President Belisario Betancur."

According to Julia Marin, who is in charge of the M-19's International Secretariat, "we believe that peace is possible only within a democratic framework with real guarantees for respect of political pluralism, rather than with an amnesty that offers no security for the beneficiaries and is not accompanied by basic social reform." During a stop in Mexico, where she stayed only a few hours, the guerrilla leader stressed at a news conference that the amnesty sanctioned in December by the Colombian Government "is a demagogic measure which, far from being a first step toward peace, has led to intensified repression and militarism."

The M-19, which describes itself as "a nationalist movement that struggles for the establishment of a popular and independent democracy," claims that "some 300 political, union, and student activists have disappeared" since the amnesty was ordered.

Marin stressed that, according to official data, Colombia's defense expenses have risen from the equivalent of $100 million to $500 million in 1983. This represents, she added, 20 percent of the country's total budget. According to Marin, "this amount will be used to rearm the 70,000 Colombian Army troops with modern antiguerrilla weapons, such as the armored vehicles bought in Brazil, or those that will be supplied by the arms factory that Israel will soon install, as has been officially announced."

After stressing M-19's support for the peace efforts of the Contadora Group in Central America, the guerrilla leader added that "Betancur's diplomatic initiatives are in contrast to his incoherent domestic policy." "While the Colombian Government signs the Contadora declarations stressing an end to the arms race, the country promotes the quick purchase of all types of weapons," she said.

According to Marin, "the true purpose of the amnesty was to disarm the guerrillas without satisfying any of the democratic and social demands. This was an additional reason for our organization to break the truce agreed on with the government and to resume our political-military activities last 19 April." However, she explained, "the M-19 and probably the FARC, with which we have begun a process of rapprochement, will propose a new plan to achieve lasting peace in the country."

DIVISIONS IN M-19 REPORTED BY RANK AND FILE

PA311216 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Jul 83 p 3a

[Report by Fernando Ortiz Alvear]

[Text] Cali, 27 Jul -- The so-called 19 April Movement [M-19] rank and file coordinating board has revealed that profound differences within this organization could lead to an armed struggle, if necessary. The rebels have announced their discontent over the organization's new path and "their irreversible rejection of Ivan Marino Ospina and Alvaro Fayad, who assumed leadership as soon as Jaime Bateman Cayon's death was known."

The rank and file coordinating board has proposed a lawyer by the name of Arias Londono, better known among the rebels as "Major Boris," to be the top leader of the subversive movement. "We will not follow Ospina and Fayad's line. We know that they are only radicals and full-time military men," the pamphlet notes.

DAM WORKERS DIE IN LANDSLIDE, RESCUE UNDERWAY

PA291336 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Bogota -- More than 120 workers of the new Guavio Dam, who were changing shifts last night at 1930, were buried by a landslide in the rural area of Gachala, exactly where the water-intake works are under construction. Technicians and workers inside three buses were buried in seconds by a land- and mudslide. The three buses were parked in front of the water-intake works of the dam, currently under construction, when a mountain of soil and mud collapsed on them.

Some 50 workers who either saw the landslide or felt the earth moving managed to save themselves, quickly abandoning the area. It has been estimated that at least another 15 to 20 people died in a second landslide that took place when over 50 workers tried to rescue their companions. According to reports sent in by CARACOL's correspondents, the damming of the Guavio River may have caused this tragedy of unforeseeable magnitude. According to other reports, some 30 people are trapped inside one of the tunnels.

By 0500 today, only 14 bodies had been recovered and, according to police, 6 of them have already been identified. Vehicles of the firefighter corps, the Red Cross, the civil defense, the police, and several other government and civilian entities immediately arrived at the scene of the tragedy to help rescue the victims.

The tragedy occurred exactly at the change of shift. Over 50 workers were finishing their work and a similar number of workers was preparing to replace them. The first landslide resulted from geological faults that had been noticed by the workers themselves. According to several of the workers now helping in the rescue operation, there was another landslide 8 months ago. Four workers were killed then. One of the workers helping in the rescue operation said that at first there was a deafening noise, then the landslide buried the three buses and their occupants, estimated to number about 125.

Rescue Effort Continues

PA291838 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Bogota - Civil defense announced today that, so far, 12 dead and 13 injured victims of last night's landlside near the Guavio Hydroelectric Plant in Cundinamarca have been found.

The civil defense group, in coordination with the Military Institutes Brigade, the National Aid Office, and the National Police, is participating in the rescue operation. About noon it was learned that the task has become quite difficult because of the great quantity of mud and stones and a drizzling rain that is continuously falling over the area. The mouth of the tunnel has reportedly been explored, but so far no signs of life have been found. These activities will continue until the area is completely cleared in a coordinated action involving all the organizations present at the site.

Energy Minister on Disaster

PA292302 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 2217 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Colombian Energy and Mines Minister Carlos Martinez Simmahan has visited the site of the landslide tragedy and said that the government will provide immediate aid for the dead and injured. He added that the government has ordered an investigation, to begin on Monday, to establish the causes of this tragedy.

Martinez also said that, if necessary, work will continue through the night. Special floodlights have been brought to the site to help the workers, who have also installed special equipment for this kind of work in order to speed up the rescue of those who are still trapped under the avalanche.

It was reported that government officials estimate the number of victims to be between 100 and 120.

Martinez also said that a census is being taken in the town of Gachala. Those who survived the tragedy are asked to go to the mayor's office and register so that it can be definitely ascertained how many were involved in the catastrophe.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS TO CARICOM -- Bogota, 28 Jul (AFP) -- Colombian exports to Caricom countries increased 41.4 percent during the first 4 months of 1983, the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute, INCOMEX, reported. The total value of these exports was $12.5 million. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1452 GMT 28 Jul 83 PA]

PRESIDENT BELAUNDE'S STATE OF UNION ADDRESS

PY291822 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 2120 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Speech by Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry at Congress on National Independence Day, the third anniversary of his advent to power and the opening of the 1983-1984 congressional period in Lima -- live]

[Excerpts] [In progress] ...of Congress, in compliance with paragraph 7 of Article 211 of the Constitution, I am personally handing over the written text of my presidential message. Taking into account that it is rather long, I request the Senate president's authorization to summarize it. [applause]

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Congressmen: A reassuring breeze blowing from the continent touched my brow as the third year of my administration came to an end. When I attended the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of liberator Simon Bolivar in Venezuela, I had the great satisfaction of hearing the crowd reiterating like a prayer the cry of victory that is usually heard in our sports competitions: Peru, Peru, Peru! This was the reward of our presence in Caracas. [applause] A remarkable feature of that meeting was that all the presidents who attended it were elected by the people in keeping with constitutional principles, thus endowing the Andean group with the strength needed to attain progress and its objectives. [applause]

Hispanic America and the hemisphere are waging a war to which they are not accustomed. It is no longer the straightforward war that is waged across borders where the enemy identifies himself and then clashes with defenders. For the first time in history, another kind of war has developed -- a war that is equally harmful to the sovereignty of nations -- a war waged by people who do not have enough courage to wage a conventional war. The war of infiltration that is now being waged has been used as an instrument for introducing -- God only knows for what obscure purposes -- foreign conflicts into Latin American territory. This war of infiltration also wishes to impose exotic ideologies and to destroy the foundations of democracy; it wishes to impose by force exotic ideologies which our people have rejected at the ballot boxes. [applause]

Faced by their failure to win within the limits of the law, they have resorted to [passage indistinct].

They prefer to plot against the legally established order and thus pave the way for chaos, disorder and eventual foreign domination so that they can inform their remote, secret financial sponsors that they have attained their objectivies of chaos, misfortune and destruction. But we will not let them achieve their objectives because we know that the time has come for this new kind of war to be revealed for what it really is and for Peru to stand up and eradicate any outbursts born out of insane foreign tendencies. [applause]

I am not driven by negative emotions or feelings of revenge. However, I must ask Congress to approve our request to restore the death penalty. This request is not being submitted out of cruelty or with the intention of breaking those human rights to which we are all committed, but with the purpose of building essental safeguards for the lives of the people and public property.

If approved, the death penalty will surely be used very little, as happened under the 1933 Constitution. We cannot allow a situation that favors criminals to continue, now that they have taken upon themselves the right to judge, to pass judgment and to unjustly impose sentences on their defenseless victims. We want the death penalty for those kinds of individuals, who are guilty of high treason in our country. [applause]

I respectfully convey this request to Congress, which was in turn conveyed to me by tearful widows and orphans at the funerals of young defenders of public order, who were sent to their graves at an early age after being outrageously murdered. But many other courageous people also had to meet the same fate, men and women -- some of them from my own party -- whose sacrifice reveals that when the fatherland is in jeopardy, both civilians and military give their lives. [applause]

I believe that this introduction was necessary before summing up this 100-page message as briefly as possible, which also contains annexes, and I am sure that it will satisfy you, Messrs Representatives, and your justified expectation, regarding the information and concepts that it contains.

In the first place, I wish to divide this message, as I usually do, into sections. [Word indistinct], judicial institutions and internal and external policies.

Second, economic promotion.

Third, social, cultural and health promotion.

And finally, words that express our deep appreciation for the unselfish tasks being carried out by our armed forces.

I will begin with a brief passage on the activities of the Justice Ministry, which has maintained the most cordial relations with the judicial branch. A relationship of mutual respect and whenever possible, as you gentlemen representatives well know, of attention, within existing limitations, given to the justified demands of that branch. And where some matters have not been looked into with due dispatch, it is not due to a lack of will or the spirit to work, but because there has been a shortage of materials and personnel.

In this respect, 150 new posts have been created to lighten the burden and the difficult economic situation of the judicial branch during these current troubled times.

As the congressmen know, important laws regarding writs of injunction and habeas corpus have been approved within the judicial sector, including a law on provisional arrests on which we have pinned a great deal of hope, as it is unjust that people being tried for certain types of crimes should remain in prison if they do not pose any danger to society, or when it is a question of first offenders, or when they are being accused for the first time, because their imprisonment aggravates the problem of overcrodwing and creates the serious danger that these citizens can become corrupt when they come in contact with real criminals imprisoned for just causes or due to excesses that have made them dangerous.

The police forces, the Education Ministry and the Health Ministry are all institutions that have to serve the population, an evergrowing population.

Our population growth is practically 3 percent per year, and this means that there is a continuous demand for the services of these ministries. When they ask for greater resources, they do not do so for the purpose of improving conditions, but to serve an increasing population, which is always very large in developing countries and especially in the Andean countries.

Therefore, we must acknowlege that the police forces have a much bigger job than they can carry out because we have a large and diverse country. There are various climates and difficulties in communciations, and therefore it is necessary to give each district, and there are approximately 1,800, at the least a police force that will not be an easy target for criminals, but that due to ics numbers, training, and equipment will be in a position to confront danger in the defense of the interests of society.

It is precisely due to these deficiencies that the rural areas, which in times past were characterized by a spirit of fraternity and where a peaceful life was led when there was no outside influence, are now in a troubled state. There were only occasional disagreements in those areas between communities over land problems, irrigation or on festive occasions due to friction between parties, but these communities fundamentally inherited the spirit of brotherhood traditional in Peru.

I must raise my voice in protest against a few individuals, led by God only knows who and to what end, that have sown discord in those places where only harmony existed previously. Against those individuals that have entered the rural areas, not to help the people in their struggle, not to help them improve their standard of living, but to unhappily send them to their graves in a blood bath never before known in the historical region of Ayacucho. [applause]

Therefore, the problem of the police forces is basically a question of numbers and equipment. It is true that in the recent past, efforts were made to overcome these deficiencies, and it is also true that at a certain time the armed forces were called in to assume the political and military control of the northern provinces of Ayacucho and some neighboring provinces in Apurimac and Huancavelica.

It is clear that the armed forces have maintained a low profile, as they are aware that they must use their weapons very cautiously and maintain and buildup the population's confidence in them. They have carried out their task because it has allowed the police to operate with greater flexibility and efficiency in those regions, and especially, and this is something that gives me great pleasure, because the casualties of those defending order have declined notably. There is nothing that makes a leader more unhappy than to have to attend the wake of young persons who have defended order, as I did just 2 days ago; nothing can cause so much pain than the shedding of blood, no matter whose it is. Therefore, I call upon God to protect Peru and enlighten all those people who are suffering from this plague of terrorism, to protect them and to restore brotherhood and peace; in other words, the essence of Peru that has always reigned in the Peruvian hills. [applause]

In this morning's Council of Ministers meeting called to approve this message, we also decided to continue the state of emergency since the facts compel us to do so.

We hope that the state of emergency may be lifted, and are convinced that the enforcement of this decree will not pose any obstacles to holding the municipal elections. We shall see to it that all the actions leading to the municipal elections and to the healthy exchange of ideas are carried out under completely normal circumstances.

Once again we request the cooperation of all political parties in order to achieve a formula that will be satisfactory for all sectors.

Regarding foreign relations, I and Fernando Schwalb Lopez Aldana, first vice president of the republic, have had the pleasure of attending the Caracas summit, where we noted that there is an atmosphere of strong unity among the Andean countries.

We not only held official meetings, and even some meetings of the Cartagena Agreement board, which were presided over with great expertise by Vice President Schwalb Lopez Aldana, but also some private meetings at the residence of Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins. During those meetings, we noted a will to cooperate, to strengthen friendly ties and to overcome any difficulties or disagreements.

Therefore, I am pleased to inform this chamber that we have advanced in our negotiations within the Andean group. At the same time, we took advantage of those meetings to make some proposals, which were well-received and which, we are pleased to say, were included in the final Caracas document.

We submitted specific proposals and left aside those details which only make people waste time and delay the deadlines established in Punta del Este [Uruguay] in 1967 so that the Andean group and the Cartagena Agreement may concentrate on the study of clear, practical plans.

Our proposal to study the possibility of implementing a common currency, which will initially be a unit of account, has been accepted, and today the possibility of establishing an Andean peso is being studied by all the pertinent organizations. I am certain that these organizations shall supply very important ideas in this regard.

It is obvious that our interregional trade is relatively small. It only amounts to $500 million annually, but it is also obvious that through the implementation of the Andean peso, this figure will easily increase two fold and even more. If this is done, we will no longer have to resort to foreign currencies. We shall be able to use our own Andean currency in all our transactions. In so doing, we shall also be able to achieve a balanced trade level that will be beneficial for all sectors involved.

Moreover, our proposals to establish free transit and to eliminate passports have also been accepted. I feel obliged to inform you that Colombian President Belisario Betancur and Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo have stated that their countries and governments are willing to implement these proposals jointly with Peru.

It was noted that if these measures cannot be implemented unanimously on the first attempt because of some administrative difficulties in any of the countries involved, those countries will not be considered to be committing an omission if other countries proceed to implement free transit. This was clearly established, and I believe that we have achieved great progress in this regard.

As for our proposal to achieve the integration of hydroelectric systems and river basins, we must note that these projects are underway and that they have been accepted by all countries.

Brazil and Paraguay have recently undertaken an immense hydroelectric project that will yield 10 million kw, which will result in mutual benefits for both countries. This is a perfect example of what can be achieved through bilateral cooperation. Another example of this can be seen to a certain extent between Venezuela and Colombia as well as between Argentina and Uruguay in the Salto Grande dam. Therefore, we are on the right path and can see the time when, just as in the United States or Europe, where electric links go from Paris to Moscow, or from New York to Los Angeles, we shall be able to link Buenos Aires and Rio with Lima through Bolivia. In so doing, we shall achieve a proper infrastructure that will enable us to take a great step forward at last.

I am very pleased to say that through the expert advice of Foreign Minister Fernando Schwalb, we were able to enjoy a very pleasant and cordial atmosphere in Caracas. We returned full of enthusiasm.

Yesterday at the Caracas summit, and recently at the La Paz summit, I was allowed to speak in simple terms so as to reach not only the learned legislators in the audience, but the modest people as well. This is why I summarized the issue with the following formula at the time: the interconnection of river basins and hydroelectric systems plus common currency plus free transit equals integration. [applause]

I cannot but mention the great satisfaction I experienced in my capacity as president of Peru in witnessing the deference with which our eminent fellow Peruvian, Javier Perez de Cuellar, who attended the Caracas summit in his capacity as UN secretary general, was received and I so informed him of this. [applause]

...But the institute has a specific mission to fulfill in a country like ours: that of taking care of the zones affected by disasters. In this regard, I want to pay homage to the wealthy people who have openly, happily accepted the sacrefice demanded of them to finance the issuance of reconstruction bonds. I realize that this is a difficult sacrifice at the present time, but it has demonstrated to the world that Peru first shoulders its responsibilities and makes efforts; that it does not knock on the doors of international credit institutions for help in these disasters before making the maximum sacrifices. This is the sacrifice of the people on the upper economic levels for the benefit of those at the lower levels.

I believe that this action will strengthen national unity and bring all Peruvians closer together, rich and poor alike, in the common effort to respond to the very justified call from Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, Puno, (Sequia) and the south, and the Rima valley, where our communications system has been so badly damaged. [applause]

I want to express the government's gratitude to the institutions and friendly nations which have helped us at this moment of sacrifice in one way or another by contributing substantial aid, or by negotiating with their governments and credit organizations for special arrangements to finance reconstruction, which the National Planning Institute, in an exhaustive study, has estimated at $900 million, including, of course, all Peruvian regions affected by floods, landslides or drought.

Many writers, correspondents, and reporters have come here and written frivolously about Peru, not realizing that by presenting Peru as a chaotic country instead of one with a respectable regime elected by the people, they have discouraged many tourists. Some travelers arrive in Lima and are surprised that we are not on the brink of war in the capital because the events in Ayacucho have been exaggerated.

I myself went to Ayacucho, with which I have been familiar for more than 30 years, to attend the flag-raising ceremony on a Sunday and answer questions at the parade grounds from reporters, who were suspiciously numerous, not in search of good news that could enhance the country's image, but of bad news that could only undermine and damage the country.

Special facilities have been granted for the training of teachers. Fifty-nine education centers for teachers have been established. Greater impetus has been given to this profession, which has much to say regarding the education of our children. Above all, though, we have created the sabbatical year in Peru for the first time: that is, the right of teachers, to a lesser degree at the outset but increasing as time goes by, to ask for a free year, thus enjoying this prerrogative in order to extend their training in different universities in the country or abroad.

The Social Communications Ministry has reaffirmed our objectives of providing the best security and guarantees in the dissemination of news. As in the past, we are no longer dealing with organizations strictly at the service of the government's desires. This is a serious institution in charge of organizations at the service of Peru, which when acquiring valuable news, does so at the service of private institutions. What better example than the beautiful program taken from the (Casiquiare)? Only state television channel 7 was there, but it was there to show the views, because the size of the boat and its capacity did not allow us to take all other stations. Thus, through this channel, I was able to share with all the Peruvian people the emotion of that happy day when the Navy, under adverse conditions, demonstrated all its honor, courage, and capability. It has again demonstrated that those historical pages written in times of peace can be repeated, because the Amazonas gunboat has honored the Amazonas frigate which traveled around the world in the past century triumphantly carrying national banner. [applause]

I would like to express my gratitude to the Peruvian Armed Forces. Although there are many coup rumors in various places, there are more reports of coups than actually exist. Although there are rumors and talk about coups in various places, the lawful command of the armed forces, in all circumstances, whether in difficulty or peace time, has demonstrated, not only through words, but through events in support of the constitutional government, thereby honoring the heroes who have brought glory to the armed forces, heroes who are also men of constitutional tendencies, such as Miguel Grau, who at a given time [words indistinct] by decision of the people. [applause] I have also visited our border garrisons one after the other not only to verify our security situation, but to verify the actions these garrisons are undertaking for the benefit of the civilian population and the country's development. During my previous government, rural settlements had been created with military units in them, the first of which was located in Nazareth, in the Maranon area. Fortunately, this first seed has yielded fruit, not only in Breu, Contagallo, and Angamos, but in many other places I visited in a reverent pilgrimage in support of the officers and troops fulfilling their duty under extremely difficult conditions. The activities of the armed forces in peacetime is highly significant. If the armed forces work during peacetime for lengthy periods, with all their might, discipline, courage and spirit of work at the service of the cause of development, the results will be the optimum. And we have been able to confirm this during the recent emergency cases. Wherever I landed in Tumbes and all along the highway, I found companies of soldiers with weapons and picks helping to restore the road.

I am aware of the fact that the Navy has unselfishly assigned one of its units, a decision for which I am also responsible, in its resolute determination to assist a people dying of hunger. I have also witnessed how the air force, under any circumstances, is willing to go to the most remote areas, running all types of risks, to establish air bridges which, naturally, entail great expenses, great efforts, and expenditures which sometimes are not fully appreciated. It costs many millions of soles in fuel to fly a Hercules aircraft from Lima to Piura and back. And we have had to have planes flying at all hours, day after day, week after week, month after month in order to give aid which is not always fully appreciated.

Therefore, I would like to state that a constitutional government's unity with its armed forces is indispensable. I do not know who I will be handing the presidency over to in 2 years time, but I can assert that if he does not seek firm cooperation such as we have attained, he will miss a source of aid and support, not only of security in cases of international emergencies, but of support in the frequent, unavoidable, and continuous emergencies caused by earth tremors and the climate in Peru.

I am not going to give a detailed account of the equipment of these forces since that is a military issue and the full text of my speech contains the necessary information in any event. However, I just want to thank the armed forces for the support they give us, and not only personally, but in my capacity as a democratic governor of a regime which is aware that the unity of civilians and military is the guarantee for the continuation of a free regime such as the current one. It is the guarantee for preserving the liberties which we have achieved, not only through the actions of the civilians who demanded them, but due to the farsightedness of the government which ruled at that time and which together with the civilians led the country to the life it now enjoys, that is, a life within the framework of the Constitution and the law. [applause]

I wish to voice my deep gratitude to Manuel Ulloa and the distinguished citizens who shared the previous Cabinet with him, of which we have retained some of its members. I want to tell him how much I appreciate the way in which he has placed all his knowledge, experience, and well deserved international prestige at the service of the country. I also want to tell the members of his Cabinet that they will always be missed. No matter how great the contribution of the new ministers, I would like the Cabinet to grow so as not to have to lose anyone.

We have called for municipal elections, which will take place shortly to elect some 18,000 mayors and town councillors. As a consequence, some 100,000 Peruvian citizens will run for these posts. This is the right path to reach public office. This is the path of honest men. The doors of law are fully open. Municipal elections allow the formation of public servants. Municipal debate reveals the capacity and virtues of the candidates and allows the election of men to carry out more relevant national tasks. These elections are a true civic school, but many sectors consider them a threat. They want to avoid them because they know that this is the field in which they cannot compete or in which they will be defeated. They want to destroy the law, but the Peruvian people will not allow them to do so. And if some mistake can be charged to the government I have and have had the honor of presiding over, we take full responsibility for it. However, if any achievement could be mentioned or pointed out, then it could be said that our people are responsible for it. [applause]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RODRIGUEZ RESIGNS POST

Villareal Assumes Post Temporarily

PA300006 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Rafael Rodriguez, attorney general of the republic, presented his resignation this afternoon. Efrain Villareal has assumed the post temporarily. Although Rodriguez did not explain the reasons for his resignation in his letter, Televisora Nacional has been able to ascertain that he has been suffering from ill health because of overwork and his heavy responsibilities.

Venezuela Gives 'Diplomatic Protection'

PA310430 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Rafael Rodriguez, who resigned as attorney general, has requested asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy in Panama City. Televisora Nacional tried to interview him this afternoon, but our reporters were told that visits were not allowed and that the request for asylum would be handled through normal channels.

Venezuelan Ambassador Cesar Rondon Lovera told Televisora Nacional that the Venezuelan Embassy has accepted the former attorney general's request for asylum and declared him under diplomatic protection, since Rodriguez claimed that he has been deprived of his individual liberties.

The Venezuelan diplomat revealed that he had sent a note to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry advising of the embassy's decision to grant diplomatic protection to Rafael Rodriguez, and that he is awaiting instructions from the Caracas government regarding the request for asylum.

Attorney General's Charges

PA302011 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Jose Quintero de Leon and Vladimir Sandoval]

[Excerpts] After charging that he had been forced to resign by the president of the republic and the National Guard General Staff, Rafael Rodriguez, former attorney general of the republic, sought asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy yesterday evening.

Attorneys Carlos Cuestas and Jose Brandao, colleagues of the attorney general in the investigation of Social Security embezzlement, quit their posts in solidarity with Rodriguez. Other resignations were tendered by various members of the office of the Attorney General. Returning to his office in the afternoon after having been taken to the National Guard High Command, Rodriguez disclosed that he had resigned after receiving death threats and in order to avert a coup d'etat.

"They were going to do away with the political parties; Colonel Roberto Diaz threatened to kill me; he threatened that there would be martyrs, that there would be bloodshed, and that they were no less dictators than the others," Rodriguez charged before hundreds of lawyers and citizens who went to the Office of the Attorney General to show their support. The attorney general tendered his resignation at 1530 yesterday.

At the Bar Association headquarters, Rodriguez charged that "President de la Espriella, former President Royo, industrialist Alberto Ponds, and the Board of Directors of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) were aware of the irregularities that were being committed with Social Security funds."

According to Rodriguez, in the investigations which he was carrying out, "Carlos Santamaria, one of the accused, testified that President de la Espriella and Dr Abraham Saied were aware of what was happening with the Social Security funds and were the ones who masterminded the formation of the commissions that obligated payment by the insurance companies to the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, an organization to which checks were made out for several million Balboas."

He added that "as soon as the General Staff realized that it was known that De la Espriella was linked with the Social Security embezzlement, General Paredes threatened the Attorney General's Office, stating that there should be no mention of the president of the republic, or there would be a coup d'etat."

The former attorney general confessed to having committed an error by using $300,000 seized from Carlos Santamaria after raiding his home to buy 400 typewriters for the attorney general's office. "We did not want it to be stolen," he said, adding "all the money spent was accounted for; it was not stolen."

Rodriguez said that "attorney Cuestas has in his possession thousands of dollars worth of cancelled checks drawn in favor of the PRD, which it must have cashed. One of these was made out by an insurance company belonging to former Colonel Rodrigo "Botita" Garcia for $175,000, which passed through the hands of the president, who sent it to the PRD."

Speaking before an attentive audience, the attorney general added that "Alberto Ponds and all the members of the PRD Board of Directors are directly responsible for Social Security funds. It is all there. If I must die for the truth, than I shall. If I have to regret having resigned, it is not because I made a decision, not out of fear for me or for my family, but for the fatherland, because Diaz Herrera said that the solution was military and the people's will could not be considered."

He stated that "in my opinion and Cuestas', the money of the Social Security fund is in the hands of the four arrested -- Fabrega, Saied, Burgos, and Diaz Cogley -- and Carlos Santamaria, the PRD, its board of directors, Alberto Ponds, former President Royo, and President de la Espriella."

Rodriguez also referred to the investigation of the National Financial Corporation, COFINA, as "another scandal of the revolutionary process" and noted that "the executive branch and the National Guard frequently exerted pressure so that the case would not become known, because it involved ranking personalities of the current government."

Regarding the charges made against Luis Alberto Arias for embezzling funds of the National Bank, Rodriguez replied: "This case has very long arms."

Rodriguez then told how he was summoned to the Command Headquarters, saying that when he arrived there at 0800 he found the president of the republic with some members of the General Staff. Gen Paredes "spoke to me in such a way that I am ashamed to repeat it." He said that Paredes told him "before the president of the republic that if I did not resign before noon that day, he would make me resign or would fire me publicly and I could say whatever I pleased." Then he threw me out of the Command Headquarters.

Rodriguez explained that on returning to the Attorney General's Office to resume work, Lieutenant Colonel Julian Melo arrived to again take him to Command Headquarters, guaranteeing him his security and freedom. He would not allow Dr Fabian Echevers to accompany him, but Hernan Delgado was allowed. Both attorneys were at the Attorney General's Office at the time.

Rodriguez said that he was practically detained at the Command Headquarters and that on asking Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera if he could telephone his father, Diaz said no, shouting that "you are a man and have to decide things on your own. If you want to be a martyr, you will be a martyr, because there have been many dictatorships in Central America and ours cannot be any worse than those. We have everything prepared to decide things militarily; you have no alternative."

Attorney General Rodriguez concluded "telling them very frankly -- perhaps I am mistaken but maybe not -- in the Social Security case I exonerate the National Guard from the lowest private to the highest colonel, as well as in the Cofina and Bayano Cement case."

Meanwhile, the National Bar Association, in a second communique signed by its Acting President Manuel Cupas Fernandez and Secretary Anibal Galindo, strongly repudiates the acts of political and military pressure exerted on Attorney General Rafael Rodriguez and demands his immediate reinstatement.

The political parties of the opposition, after declaring themselves on a permanent state of alert, made the following statement to the nation and the world:

1. The alleged resignation of the attorney general of the nation was obtained through pressure exerted by ranking chiefs of the National Guard. The attorney general himself charged before the Bar Association and other groups that these officers had threatened him physically and with a coup d'etat if he did not resign.

2. This act of violence radically belies the independence of the Office of the Attorney General, shamefully infringes on the national constitution, and exposes the country to a de facto situation.

3. What has happened reveals the obvious interest of the highest civilian and military authorities in preventing the offical investigations of corruption by the attorney general, particularly in the case of the Social Security scandal, from continuing to their final consequences.

4. The so-called resignation, legally corrupt and morally invalid, openly compromises the country's democratization process, which should conclude with the holding of free and clean elections in 1984.

The declaration is signed by Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, of the Christian Democratic Party; Cesar Arrocha Grael of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA), Dr Carlos Ivan Zuniga of the Peoples Action Party (PAPO), Olimpo Saez of the Popular Nationalist Party, Dr Arnulfo Escalona R., of the Liberal Party, and Hildebrando Nicosia of the Authentic Panamenist Party.

An extraordinary writ of habeas corpus against Gen Paredes and in favor of Rafael Rodriguez, former attorney general, was filed yesterday afternoon by Attorneys Diogenes Arosemena Grimaldo and Hernan Guardia Aparicio as soon as it was learned that Rodriguez had been taken from his office by members of the National Guard.

However, Magistrates Camilo O. Perez and Marisol Reyes de Vasquez told LA PRENSA that the writ against General Paredes was not applicable because Attorney General Rodriguez had been released in the afternoon.

Bulletin on Rodriguez Resignation

PA310345 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jul 83

[News bulletin of the Presidency Press and Information Office dated 30 July 1983]

[Text] Based on our respect for public opinion, and in view of distorted reports in relation to Rafael Rodriguez' resignation from his post as attorney general of the nation, the Presidency Press and Information Office reports the following:

On the morning of Friday, 29 July, a meeting was held between the president of the republic, the commander in chief of the National Guard, the National Guard staff, and the attorney general at the time, Rafael Rodriguez, who was accompanied by his personal friend, Hernan Delgado. The purpose of the meeting was to analyze the charges made by Rodriguez in interviews he granted to the media in recent weeks, in which he said that he was being pressured and forced into not going along with certain investigations. Rodriguez went so far as to warn the government the night before that if these pressures did not stop, he would be compelled to reveal certain things he had concealed so far.

During the meeting, those present asked Rodriguez to categorically report the names of those who were pressuring him and coercing him and to reveal the extremely serious information he claimed to have. Rodriguez replied that in reality, he was very tired and under pressure from the excessive work and responsibility that his post entailed, and he did not answer the specific question.

Rodriguez reiterated his desire to be appointed magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice, replacing Luis Carlos Reyes who, in his opinion, could retire. He had made this request to the president of the republic, other government officials, and members of the National Guard staff on various occasions in the past few months, occasionally alleging health reasons, among others. It is widely known that in the past few months, Rodriguez has been complaining that he has not been feeling well, and that he traveled to the United States this year to receive medical attention.

Rodriguez was told that there was no vacant position in the Supreme Court of Justice at this time, and that a change in its membership could only take place according to the procedures established in the constitution.

Rodriguez became upset with this answer and, visibly angered and out of control, replied that if his petition was not granted, he would endanger the country's stability. At no time did Rodriguez mention who was coercing him, or what information he possessed and was so zealously keeping secret. He then left the meeting.

Hours later, Rodriguez made a phone call to the National Guard Command and requested a meeting with one of the colonels. At the time of the call the commander in chief of the National Guard and all the National Guard staff members were at Fort Amador, attending the ceremony commemorating the death of General Omar Torrijos Herrera, with the exception of Lieutenant Colonel Julian Melo, who was on duty and later agreed to meet Rodriguez. Since Rodriguez insisted on a meeting similar to the one held in the morning, Col Melo invited him to his office, where he arrived accompanied by lawyer Herman Delgado, who was present as a personal friend of Rodriguez.

In Lt Col Melo's office, Rodriguez said in a threatening manner that the government could easily avoid a problem of a major political nature by appointing him magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice. Rodriguez also requested the presence of [presidential secretary] **Rogelio** Cruz, who arrived minutes later.

Col Melo told him that he could do nothing about his request and that the government would not restructure the Supreme Court of Justice only to please him. Rodriguez, showing his anger, immediately proceeded to dictate his irrevocable letter of resignation, and tendered it.

At the time of these incidents, the president of the republic was at the Presidential Palace at a luncheon in honor of former presidents and distinguished foreign politicians who had arrived to attend the ceremonies commemorating the death of Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera and of the commander in chief of the National Guard and other members of the staff. The rest of the incidents are already known. We regret that Rodriguez made an unfounded statement following these incidents.

To conclude, we also report that the executive branch has appointed Efrain Villarreal A., who was assistant attorney general, and has urged him to continue the investigation that the attorney general's office had been conducting, without any restrictions.

Panama City, 30 July 1983.

Presidential Bulletin 'Preposterous'

PA312335 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jul 83 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] Obviously late, the presidency has offered preposterous explanations about the resignation of the attorney general. A lengthy press bulletin tries to persuade us that the attorney general is nearly a psychopath, obsessed with the idea of being appointed supreme court magistrate and -- on not succeeding -- suddenly resigning, taking vengence on all those who rejected his hints with capricious accusations against the highest civilian and military authorities. The argument, ridiculous even as literary fiction, leaves many things unexplained and certainly has not satisfied anybody. It is too easy to attribute actions that affect the government to psychopathic behavior. The theory, widely used in the Soviet Union, is quite simple: We live under the best possible regime: ranking officials are just, honest, wise, and have foresight: any normal or reasonable man recognizes this; if anybody does not admit this, he is abnormal, unreasonable, insane, and, therefore, should receive psychiatric care. Any dissident is thus crazy: any rebellion, dementia. Last Monday it was a "crazy bomber." Now it is the attorney general. Tomorrow the same diagnosis will probably be made of the statement made by Dr Carlos Cuestas -- published in this edition -- who agrees with all the charges made by Rodriguez. No. We have had enough stories, lies, and fantastic arguments. The country wants and needs all the truth about this and other shady affairs that darken our national destiny. The crisis of credibility is total, and most Panamanians are not willing to grant the regime even the benefit of the doubt.

PRESIDENT DE LA ESPRIELLA NEWS CONFERENCE

PA312004 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1711 GMT 31 Jul 83

[News Conference by Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella with unidentified reporters, at the office of General Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the National Guard; Panama City -- live]

[Text] [De la Esperiella] We are here to answer your questions.

[Reporter] Mr President, it has been reported that the former attorney general has asked the Venezuelan Embassy for political asylum. Has the Venezuelan Embassy made any request to the Panamanian Government in this regard?

[De la Espriella] The Venezuelan Embassy informed us yesterday afternoon that the former attorney general was at the embassy and that it was awaiting instructions from Venezuela to determine the status of the attorney general, the former attorney general, in that embassy.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] has some sort of political persecution been unleased here?

[De la Espriella] I think you are the best witness of the freedom this country enjoys. I personally believe that occasionally this freedom is not properly understood and enjoyed, and then freedom becomes immorality. People's reputations are assaulted. Judgment is passed without a trial.

There is no political persecution. I am inclined to believe that this person sought refuge there because his conscience was bothering him. I ask you: Who is a worse terrorist? One who places a bomb in a public place, or one who tries to destabilize a country with lies? Who is the worse terrorist? Who does more harm to the country?

We have been trying to give stability to this country throughout the last year. I speak of the last year because I have only been in office 1 year. From the very beginning our goal has been to instill confidence among the people. We committed ourselves with a democratization program that was already underway. We renewed the elections tribunal. We presented a constitutional reform to the people for their approval. We are discussing an elections law. The road has been toward democracy and free elections. This has been, and still is, our goal.

I wonder, however: Who could be interested in preventing this, in destabilizing the country with acts of terrorism, whether violent or through lies and slander? Who is interested in foiling the democratization process in Panama? Who wants to get us involved in the violence being endured by our Central American brothers?

I still think that the best solution, the best option Panama has is democracy through popular, civic, clean, and honest elections, and this is what we are working for.

[Reporter] Mr President, are there any political parties mixed up in this matter?

[De la Espriella] I have no evidence, but I can speculate that this is not a spontaneous action, that something like this cannot happen just like that. Migdalia.

[Reporter] Mr President, [words indistinct] and at this moment you are rejecting the charges made against you by the attorney general. I would also like to know about the National Guard chief's comment that there is a specific plot. He mentioned political parties. Do you know about that plan, Mr President?

[De la Espriella] Regarding the question about myself, I will answer by quoting our illustrious forefather, Eusebio Morales, who said that he carried with him a supreme judge, his conscience. My conscience is at peace. I submit to the people's judgment. In this thankfully small country we all know each other. I have never had, I do not have and I will never have anything to hide from this nation.

I had asked this attorney general -- on an occasion when there were insinuations about me -- to investigate me thoroughly. On one occasion he denied before journalists some insinuations against me. Now he is the one repeating the insinuations. I leave this to the people. Let them pass judgment. I am willing to be thoroughly investigated. Zamora.

[Reporter] Mr President, in the statement the former attorney general made to a local newspaper, he admits having used 300,000 Balboas that, as I understand it, belong to all the Panamanians covered by the Social Security institution. The former attorney general has been presented as the purest and cleanest person. Who is responsible for these 300,000 Balboas of the Social Security institution, that is, of all the Panamanians?

[De la Espriella] Look, Zamora, I am not here to accuse the attorney general, the former attorney general. I am not here to open a public debate on who is guilty or innocent. I am declaring to the country that I reject the charges he made against me because they are unfounded and untrue. His is another problem. Let that be investigated at the proper moment and let the affected persons file charges if that suits them.

[Reporter] Mr President, exactly 1 year ago, when you took power, the country promised corrections. Now the attorney general has left. What is the line to be followed to maintain the credibility established 1 year ago?

[De la Espriella] Look, this has been an unfortunate and regrettable event. This has not been an easy year; it has been difficult. The people know it has been difficult. There have been financial, economic, social, and political problems as well as instability in the region. We Panamanians are trying to remain stable, to achieve our goal of living in peace. This is not easy. The other day during a news conference in a friendly country I said that it is easier to wage war than to achieve peace.

I demand from the responsible authorities that the investigations in this case continue, that the investigations that have been carried out so far now be continued. But these investigations must be carried out within the framework of law. One cannot take the application of justice in one's own hands. This is a de jure state. This is what the Panamanians want and must safeguard. If we have laws, let us respect these laws and let us implement justice based on these laws. Don't let there be a justice that favors some and punishes others.

Justice is a straight line. Let there be an investigation. Let there be charges filed and let there be evidence to back the charges. The president of the republic is the first to demand that this type of justice be exercised and that these investigations be carried out.

[Reporter] Mr President, I would like to return to the subject of the former attorney general, who has sought refuge in the Venezuelan Embassy. I would like you to tell us if he can now leave the embassy and lead a normal life in the country.

[De la Espriella] I repeat that this is a matter of the attorney general's conscience bothering him. It is like someone who places a bomb and then runs to escape the consequences. No one here is persecuting him. No one has issued any threats or orders against Mr Rodriguez. He is a free man in this country, as free as every other Panamanian to move about and live within the law.

[Reporter] The attorney general said in a statement from his office that he was threatened by Colonel Diaz. We would like Col Diaz to tell us about that.

[De la Espriella] If you like I will respond for Col Diaz. There is an element of the incredible in all this. Someone has said that all this sounds like a novel. And that is true. This has been a novel. A journalist told us: No one believes what that bulletin says. We ourselves can't believe this has really happened. But it happened just as the bulletin states.

That gentleman made some charges. We called on him and asked him who was putting pressure on him, who was after him, who was threatening him. No one here did anything to him. He then went to his office. We went to the events (marking the anniversary of Torrijos death). Later we went to lunch. This gentleman ... everything that happened has been said. I am a witness. I don't know how Col Diaz could have at one point broken away from the gathering at Amador or at the Presidency to go to threaten this gentleman because I could see Col Diaz with us at all times. The onlyway Col Diaz could have threatened him would be by remote control. I don't want to enter into this polemic, which sounds morbid to me. I just want to tell the country that it is regrettable and unfortunate that events like this take place, and that we demand an investigation and the application of justice.

[Reporter] Mr President, regarding your question about who is a worse terrorist -- the one who places a bomb or the one who destabilizes the country, I would like you to [words indistinct] the attorney general. We recorded everything he said. He spoke for more than an hour. What he said at the attorney general's office is not one-tenth of all his remarks. And the newspaper report does not include everything he said either. Then, all of a sudden, the people see a note from the Presidency. Most of the people did not know how [word indistinct] and they received a clarification of something they had *not* heard completely.

[De la Espriella] The people know that the attorney general *had* been receiving charges in his office. In my opinion, these charges were not *treated* with due impartiality. Accused persons were judged without trial and this created the impression that all of us are thieves in this country, that there are no honest people. When the people lose faith and trust in those *who* guide them, a country is destabilized. That is why I said earlier that I carry with me a supreme judge, my conscience, and I answer to that conscience. My conscience is at peace. Let the people pass judgment, since we all know *each* other in this country.

[Reporter] Mr President, do you know of any plan by the political parties to aggravate this situation?

[De la Espriella] We cannot fail to speculate, Migdalia, that this is not a casual matter. It is not happenstance that this gentleman met here for 30 minutes and that by the time he reached his office members of the political opposition were already there. It is not a coincidence that that afternoon the former attorney general addressed a rally at the Bar Association building. It is not by chance that he is being advised by political elements opposed to the government. Therefore, we have to speculate that this is no accident.

[Reporter] Mr President, changing the subject: Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins yesterday announced that he will come to Panama on 15 August to meet with you and other Latin American chiefs of state. Who are the other chiefs of state, and what is the reason for this meeting?

[De la Espriella] President Herrera was invited some time ago, for commemoration of the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar and to place the first stone at a monument that the Venezuelan Government and people will donate to Panama. In addition to this, we are in constant touch regarding the Central American problem. Any other questions?

[Reporter] [words indistinct] this means there will be a purge in the state attorney's office? Could other government officials be involved in that?

[De la Espriella] We cannot say we have evidence against any official in the attorney general's office or in the government. We merely call on the Panamanians to coexist in peace and to continue the democratization program, because this program is the peaceful way to keep Panamanians from finding themselves involved in the type of conflict now being endured by our Central American brothers. This is what is most important to us.

[Reporter] Is this a mere concidence? Today is 31 July, a year after the famous throat problem. Do you think there is any relationship between that and this incident, the internal destablization of the country?

[De la Espriella] No. I definitely don't think so. I believe this is merely an unfortunate coincidence. Thank you journalists. You have been very kind.

GENERAL PAREDES ON C.A. SITUATION, CANDIDACY

PA302325 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Interview with General Ruben Dario Paredes, commander of the Panamanian National Guard, at mausoleum of General Omar Torrijos in Fort Amador, Panama Canal area, on 29 July; questioner unidentified -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Paredes] The scene that we are seeing today says more than a thousand words. It shows the desire to bring the remains of our late friend, Gen Omar Torrijos, commander and friend -- the important thing is where they have been brought: they have been brought here, where he always dreamed of coming.

[Question] One of the great concerns of Gen Torrijos was the fate of the Latin American peoples, especially the Central American problem. What can you tell us, now that the area seems to be on the verge of war.

[Paredes] I believe that there is an extremely dangerous and delicate situation in Central America: there is a war, a totally declared [as heard] war. Unfortunately, it is a war between countries that are friends of Panama. There is also the looming danger of extremist ideologies which we Panamanians do not agree with. But this does not mean that we and other peoples have to sacrifice our right to have aspirations. In other words, there are many peoples in the region and even we in Panama who have not satisfied all the needs of the people. There are still needs here that must be solved, such as unemployment and hunger. In Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua -- in short, in all of Central America -- there are still illiterates, people with tuberculosis, and people without roofs over their heads. The important thing is that in Panama there are ever-fewer people with those needs. The bad thing would be if their number were increasing.

Therefore, we believe that the democratic system, the real democratic system and not the democratic system for a few to benefit -- the real democratic system, what the ballot boxes reflect, the vote that the people cast -- I think the voting should be supervised by international organizations to prevent frauds -- should be respected. There should be honest governments of either the right or the left. Whatever the people desire should be respected.

I conclude by stating that the worsening of the situation in Central America is a real danger, and we Panamanians should be alert so that this explosive wave will not reach us and harm us. I don't know if you have another question.

[Question] Has any political party formally offered to nominate you for president and if one has, have you accepted?

[Paredes] On the 12th [of August], when I retire, I will have much to say on that subject, but I can answer all you newsmen that, as I said at the Chiriqui River bridge, the people will decide my final destiny after I leave the National Guard. Only the people and God will make me decide. If in some way I can help keep our people united, I will be there. But if my presence in any national political event causes division, I will not be there. That is all, and on the 12th we will speak further about this.

PAREDES ON TORRIJISM, PLOT, NORIEGA PROMOTION

PA311721 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1551 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Speech by Brigadier General Ruben Dario Paredes, commander-in-chief of the National Guard, at ceremony to inaugurate a new recreation center at National Guard Headquarters on the second anniversary of the death of Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera; in Panama city -- live]

[Excerpts] Torrijism means that the country will continue to advance in its search for perfect democracy, defining political issues at the polls, through a truly democratic system. Those who continue to profane Torrijos' tomb and his memory, arguing that to try to modify a labor code so that the workers and his employer or the businessmen will achieve harmony as Panamanians, since we are all children of the same mother, the homeland; those who say that this is anti-Torrijism are proclaiming fallacies.

Those who complain in vain over the needed amendment of the constitution, which was first designed and enumerated by Torrijos himself, are speaking falsely. They should desist.

Those who feel that to fail to take a stand regarding the situation that exists in America, to remain a country without a stand and thereby inadvertently playing the game of doctrines that we do not share -- we do not ask those peoples to give up their demands, but suggest that they act within the democratic system -- those who say that this is not Torrijism are not only speaking falsely but are also betraying the homeland. Fortunately, they are only a few, because in this country hatred will never prevail; harmony, love, and peace will always prevail. But to those who have access to the media and who, only 2 years after his death, are trampling on Torrijos' tomb with hatred: Leave him in peace!

In concluding, I would like to take the opportunity to denounce an event that, fortunately, was aborted a few hours ago. On this occasion, I call on the people of my fatherland, the peasants, the laborers, the professionals, the businessmen and the common citizen: Do not be surprised by the plot we have just averted, on the part of political parties which are desperately seeking power.

We have discovered that some political parties, unfortunately, with the support of a high-ranking official who has resigned -- I refer to former Attorney General Rafael Rodriguez [does not complete sentence]. We uncovered an attempt to subvert order, to destabilize the nation, and to interrupt the democratizing process we are trying to carry out through peaceful, clean, and honest elections.

Those who wished to stir up troubled waters, taking advantage of the confusion of an official -- and I repeat that this was unfortunate -- will not succeed. They have to wait for elections, and we have to wait for the final word from the people who are going to cast their votes in the ballot box. [applause]

I wish to conclude by announcing, on behalf of the most distinguished president of the republic, that this morning, in an official ceremony, he signed a decree promoting Colonel Manuel Antonio Noriega to brigadier general. [applause]

U.S. BRIGGS' STATEMENT ON DEMOCRACY HAILED

PA3001136 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Jul 83 p 1-a

["As of Today" column]

[Text] In a recent speech, the U.S. ambassador to Panama, echoing President Reagan's statements, said:

"We believe that if the Central Americans were allowed absolute freedom to decide, without fear of repression or coercion, who should govern them and how they should be governed, then all of the other problems, including those that are deeply rooted in social and economic systems, could be dealt with and resolved." The ambassador added: "Panamanian and U.S. interests coincide in terms of ensuring a democratic government by way of free and honest elections, with total respect for the results, along with an orderly and constitutional transferral of power." The ambassador concluded by saying that "the time has come for peoples and governments to define themselves openly, either for democracy and human rights or against them."

Ambassador Briggs' words are indeed welcome. His country, under a different government, supported, justified, and financed the military dictatorship in Panama, which violated human rights, distorted institutions, infringed on liberties and imprisoned, exiled, and persecuted the opposition, depriving citizens of their right to choose those who should govern them. This same policy of support for dictatorships, maintained for decades in Central America, created the conditions that prompted the crisis now affecting the region. Now that U.S. interests finally seem to coincide with the cause of freedom and democracy in Panama, there is some hope. If this statement proves to be only the empty rhetorical expression of an awkward foreign policy that continues to prefer "strong governments" to free peoples, then, sooner or later, the tragedy of our fraternal countries, which we regret today, will be repeated here.

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT IN AUGUST

PA311848 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] According to the "Miraflores in Our Sights" column of the newspaper EL NACIONAL, Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins will travel to Panama on 15 August. The Venezuelan president will attend the unveiling of a statue to honor Liberator Simon Bolivar in the bicentennial year of his birth.

President Herrera Campins was invited by Panamanian President Ricardo De la Espriella. Other Latin American presidents have also been invited to Panama, including those of the Contadora Group. Herrera Campins' visit to Panama will coincide with the celebration of the anniversary of Panama City's founding.

During their stay here, the Latin American presidents will take advantage of the opportunity to discuss the Central American and Caribbean situation.

ARGENTINE NAVY CHIEF WINDS UP OFFICIAL VISIT

PA292209 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Admiral Ruben Oscar Franco, Argentine Navy commander in chief, has sponsored an event in honor of the National Government and National Guard in recognition of the courtesies extended him during his stay of several days in Panama.

During a reception at the residence of Silvio Neumann, the Argentine ambassador to Panama, which was attended by high-ranking Panamanian civilian and military authorities, Adm Franco thanked Panama for its support during the conflict over the Malvinas Islands.

Last night the Argentine Navy chief wound up an official visit to Panama, during which he met with President Ricardo de la Espriella and high-ranking National Guard officers.

At the conclusion of his visit, Adm Franco gave Argentina's Great Cross of Naval Merit to General Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the National Guard.

HAVANA CITES MONGE REMARKS ON STONE'S VISIT

PA301800 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has said in San Jose that Richard Stone, U.S. special envoy to Central America, made no new statements regarding the area's political situation.

Monge met with Stone for over 2 hours to discuss the latest events in Central America. According to Monge, he expressed to the U.S. mediator his support for the Contadora Group peace efforts in the region. Stone will be in Costa Rica for 3 days.

MONGE COMMENTS ON NEUTRALITY, OTHER ISSUES

PM291433 Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Jul 83 p 6

[Interview with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, by Marcel Niedergang, in San Jose; date not given]

[Text] San Jose -- Costa Rica, a democratic country without an army, wishes to reaffirm its neutrality and remain resolutely outside the conflicts which are developing dangerously in Central America. Lawyers and political leaders in this small peaceful country are drawing up a permanent neutrality statute which is to be submitted to the international community. This was confirmed to us by President Luis Alberto Monge during an interview in his San Jose residence.

This proposed statute, he said, is the result of a long historical process. In 1949 we decided to abolish the Armed Forces as an institution. The barracks were turned into colleges. We are now trying to remain neutral in conflicts among nations and in our neighbors' internal quarrels. This does not mean that we are indifferent to the battle for democracy. But we think we can be more useful in the role of a possible mediator, and in strictly humanitarian tasks. We are at present studying ways to enable us to have this permanent neutrality statute recognized by the other nations....

Question: Will you be able to be neutral and remain a member of the Inter-American Mutual Aid Treaty (or Rio treaty)?

Answer: We sincerely hope so. This treaty has protected us twice in the recent past -- in 1948 and in 1955, when Somoza's forces threatened us. We have therefore been encouraged to maintain this link. And we think that the basic principles of the Inter-American system are not incompatible with our neutral status, which could be compared with that of Austria... Arming in present circumstances would be crazy and would force us to sacrifice our education and health programs.

Question: How could you face a possible wave of terrorism?

Answer: By improving the quality of our police force, which is still small. Our civil guards are unemployed peasants. I think that terrorism in Costa Rica is an exotic plant, but we must make provision for all eventualities. In addition, we have sent 500 civil guards to the border with Nicaragua. That represents a major effort for us. But we are determined to prevent acts of war against Nicaragua from our territory.

Question: Has the United States offered you military assistance?

Answer: Frankly, that would pose problems, and we would prefer not to have recourse to any U.S. assistance. It has been said that we are a U.S. satellite. This is untrue. We have good relations with Washington, but we fully intend to make clear our stances and possibly distance ourselves. We are opposed to any form of interventionism.

Question: Yet Costa Rica took part in the launching of the Forum for Peace and Democracy -- an organization in which you were alongside Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras?

Answer: That is correct. We did so in good faith and in a spirit of goodwill. We were attacked and suspected of being pushed by the United States. It was a difficult situation for us. We therefore left that organization, which today has died a natural death. In fact, we place trust in the Contadora Group of countries for the quest for peace in Central America.

Question: What is your assessment of the military agreement between Honduras and the United States?

Answer: Very dangerous in the present context. Specifically, Costa Rica has refused to send its civil guards to train at the U.S. base in Honduras, as was suggested to it.

Question: What is your view of the situation in El Salvador?

Answer: I believe that neither the army nor the guerrillas really have the people's support. The Salvadorans have not forgotten the military's extortions in the past, and are afraid of the guerrillas. It is a tragedy for those people, under fire from two directions. We have offered to mediate so that all the Salvadoran sides involved in the conflict can meet and talk. At present, peace in Central America depends on democracy and free elections. In Costa Rica we have always said: No real democracy without social progress. But now democracy is the priority.

Question: Does Nicaragua accuse you of turning a blind eye to its adversaries' activities?

Answer: Our relations with the Managua government have greatly improved. We have had several rounds of bilateral talks. The Managua leaders seem to accept that our desire for neutrality is sincere. We respect their regime, even though their ideological stance is different from ours. I would add that we supply electric power to Nicaragua, which owes us $100 million. We have just negotiated with them a further extension on the debt. They will settle it over the next 7 years. It is because we are opposed to any coordinated attempt to stifle Nicaragua that we pursue this good-neighbor policy, despite all the difficulties. And we hope to continue it....

EL SALVADOR

U.S. ENVOY STONE, GUERRILLA LEADER ZAMORA MEET

Betancur Announces Talks

PA312158 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2152 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Bogota, 31 Jul (LATIN-REUTER) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur announced today that the Salvadoran Government and the Salvadoran leftist guerrillas have agreed to begin a dialogue to search for peace, with the personal mediation of Richard Stone, President Ronald Reagan's personal envoy to Central America.

In an impromptu press conference called by the Government House, Betancur announced today that Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana has agreed to begin a dialogue with the heads of the FMLN guerrilla movement.

U.S. roving Ambassador Richard Stone will participate in the dialogue.

Betancur did not mention the date or venue of the tripartite meeting.

The announcement was made following a secret meeting at the presidential palace today between Betancur, Stone, and Salvadoran guerrilla leader Guillermo Ungo.

Betancur said "this is a definitive step, not to achieve peace in Central America, but to achieve the pacification of El Salvador."

Following today's press conference, Ambassador Stone left for El Salvador to determine with Salvador President Alvaro Magana the venue for the dialogue.

After talking to Magana, Stone will return to Bogota again tomorrow for another meeting with President Betancur before leaving for Managua.

Further Betancur Remarks

PA010330 Paris AFP in Spanish 0137 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Report by Fabio Castro]

[Text] Bogota, 31 Jul (AFP) -- The path toward peace in El Salvador apparently began to open today in Bogota, thanks to "prelimiary contact" between Richard Stone, the U.S. roving ambassador, and Ruben Zomora, representative of the Salvadoran guerrillas.

The unexpected meeting was held behind closed doors in the Hall of Tapestries at Narino Palace, the seat of the Colombian Government. Neither Stone nor Zamora made statements to the press, but President Betancur spoke to newsmen.

Betancur, who received a volley of questions, said that he could not reveal what Stone and Zamora had discussed, and repeatedly described the meeting as a "preliminary contact." Nevertheless, he said that it was "an important step, because it broke the ice" between the two parties.

Betancur then announced that Stone traveled to San Salvador tonight and would return to Bogota tomorrow. "We are going to meet tomorrow, Monday, at 1100 (1600 GMT)," the president said, adding that he was "very optimistic" regarding peace in El Salvador and all of Central America.

The president also said that "it is probable that other contacts will take place between the Salvadoran guerrillas and some Salvadoran government officials," but stressed that no dates or venues have been set.

"Everything is possible and plausible, but there are no definite [words indistinct] what took place today in Bogota," Betancur added. Betancur's remarks to newsmen follows:

Betancur: "Last week I met with Commander Guillermo Ungo of the Salvadoran guerrillas, and he asked me to deliver a message to the Salvadoran president, the Salvadoran Peace Commission, and to Ambassador Stone.

"When I arrived in El Salvador, Ambassador Stone, on his own initiative, had already asked President Alvaro Magana about the possibility of having some words with me. We met in San Salvador.

"During our meeting, he gave me the letter from President Reagan replying to the messages that the presidents sent him following the Cancun summit meeting. At that meeting we also discussed the message that (?I delivered on behalf of) Commander Ungo of the Salvadoran guerrillas.

"Later on I got in touch with Ambassador Stone, with Commander Ungo, and with the U.S. ambassador in Bogota, and this is how this preliminary contact came about today in the presidential palace with Ambassador Stone and two of his advisers -- one from the U.S. State Department, and Mr. Roger Fontaine of the U.S. National Security Council [NSC]."

Newsman: What was the orientation of the contact with the State Department and the NSC insofar as El Salvador is concerned?

Betancur: This was a preliminary meeting. That is all I can say.

Newsman: What was the thrust of Ungo's message to Magana?

Betancur: I cannot reveal that.

Newsman: Judging from the participation of Stone and Magana, are these efforts aimed at the pacification of El Salvador?

Betancur: Ambassador Stone and Dr Zamora, the representative of the combat fronts, had wanted to make today's meeting, their first meeting, a preliminary meeting. It is possible that there will be another meeting later on, at a place and on a date unknown to me. Don't think that I am trying to beat around the bush so as not to tell you the details of the meeting that was held here in the Government Palace. I did not participate in the meeting; I only acted as host.

Newsman: Could one say that the important thing about this action by the United States and El Salvador is that Colombia was the mediator for peace?

Betancur: I acted as liaison. This was a preliminary meeting. These exact words, "preliminary meeting," is how Ambassador Stone and Dr. Ruben Zamora, representing the different combat fronts, want this meeting to be described.

The Colombian president later explained that "I have not been authorized to make any additional comments," and spoke about a communique issued in Panama on Saturday at the end of a meeting between the Central American and Contadora group foreign ministers.

"The greatest significance of this new communique is that the discussions between the five Central American and the four Contadora Group foreign ministers were held in a very cordial manner. The talks were very constructive.

At no time was there any bitterness or recrimination. Of course, each stated his own position, but in a very creative manner. All of this makes us presume that there might be actions in that same direction in the search for peace in the Central American region." Lastly, Betancur said that he was "very optimistic" regarding the achievement of peace in El Salvador and all of Central Ameria. However, asked if there would be support for a procedure of making arrangements for peace country by country, Betancur replied, "I don't know."

Communique on Meeting Issued

PA010229 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0120 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Bogota, 31 Jul (LATIN-REUTER) -- With Colombian President Belisario Betancur as the liaison, the U.S. Government today began negotiations with the Salvadoran guerrillas to try to bring peace to that Central American nation. The Government Palace's Press Office issued a communique saying that "the first direct contact between the U.S. Government and the Salvadoran revolutionaries took place at noon today at Narino Palace with the presence of President Betancur." The communique adds: "The President announced this preliminary contact at the end of the meeting between the U.S. roving Ambassador Richard Stone and FMLN representative Ruben Zamora, which was held between 1200 and 1400 hours."

Zamora on Meeting

PA010213 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 0050 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] [Announcer] Today's most important news is the meeting between Richard Stone, the special envoy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and Ruben Zamora, who is (?a leader) of the FDR. This first meeting between the Salvadoran guerrillas and U.S. officials was held at Narino Palace here in Bogota. We would like to ask Dr Ruben Zamora, who met today with [words indistinct] what topics (?were broached)?

[Zamora] In effect, we held a meeting today. It was a preliminary meeting between the parties, that is, the FDR-FMLN on the one hand, and special presidential envoy Richard Stone on the other. We agreed on what will be made public, and I am going to keep this statement within those bounds.

[Announcer] Dr Zamora, why did Ambassador Stone leave so rapidly for your country, announcing that he will return to Bogota in the next few hours?

[Zamora] I think you should ask Ambassador Stone about this when he returns. We held a meeting, our preliminary contact. Mr Stone will know what to (?disclose) and what to do about what we have talked about. Four our part, we will know what to do, too.

[Announcer] Are you seeking, (?or have you already found), a first formula for [words indistinct] reapprochement?

[Zamora] I cannot comment on what was discussed at the meeting. As you will surely understand from past experience, this is a delicate process, one that demands maximum discretion by the parties, and because of this, we want to keep things this way, so that we can being to fruition the [word indistinct] objective of [word indistinct] to achieve a dialogue and a political solution to the Salvadoran problem.

[Announcer] Mr Zamora, will there be another meeting tomorrow in Narino Palace between you, Mr. Stone, and President Betancur?

[Zamora] No.

[Announcer] Mr. Zamora, the report that a proposal was made and was accepted by you for the formation of a commission with representatives of your country's government and your group....

[Zamora] I cannot comment on what was discussed at the meeting. Unfortunately, this is so.

[Announcer] I understand.

[Zamora] For a long time, I would say that for the past 2 years, our fronts have been insisting on the need for talks and negotiations to find a political solution to the Salvadoran crisis. In this respect, we are open to consider all possibilities, and to face them with maximum openness and interest in obtaining solutions to the problems.

[Announcer] Mr Zamora, what would you say was the most important thing in today's meeting here in Bogota?

[Zamora] In my opinion, the most important was that we met.

[Announcer] Had there been a meeting before?

[Zamora] We had not met before with Ambassador Stone.

[Announcer] [words indistinct] between you and the Salvadoran Revolutionary Front [words indistinct] and the U.S. Government.

[Zamora] In the past, two meetings [words indistinct] were held, one in August 1980, with the Carter Administration, and another in December 1981, at the U.S. State Department between representatives of the FDR-FMLN and U.S. Government officials. These were the only two meetings held in the past.

[Announcer] It is evident that Mr Stone's trip to your country in such a hurry, and unexpectedly, is because something happened during the meeting which made him make this trip to talk to President Magana. Therefore, do you think that the success or failure of this effort for a dialogue depends on President Magana's answer?

[Zamora] We have always believed that a dialogue with Ambassador Richard Stone is a dialogue with the U.S. Government. On the other hand, our fronts sent a letter several weeks ago to the Salvadoran Government Peace Commission in which we proposed holding talks with the Peace Commission, and about 10 days ago we received a reply from the Salvadoran Government Peace Commission agreeing to hold conversations; plans to hold them are in progress. In this regard, despite different [words indistinct] we are interested in talking to the Salvadoran Government and the U.S. Government.

[Announcer] Mr Zamora, do you have an opinion regarding Mr Stone's attitude?

[Zamora] I think it is best at this moment not to go into such things. This will not contribute in any way to promoting a dialogue, which at this moment is the most important issue. Nevertheless, our fronts will face the situation based on facts [words indistinct] we are going to try as much as possible not to pass judgement on individuals.

[Announcer] Mr Zamora, President Reagan recently suggested the possibility of the OAS handling the Central American problem. [words indistinct]

[Zamora] The U.S. Government has publicly expressed its support of the Contadora Group initiative. But on the other hand, it is evident to all Latin Americans that the presence of a U.S. Navy fleet in Central American territorial waters is not a [words indistinct] support to the efforts of the four countries of the Contadora Group which are trying to obtain peace. In this respect, President Reagan's letter expressing his support to the Contadora Group and also the possibility of submitting the problem to the OAS [words indistinct]. In this regard, our fronts believe that the initiative came from the presidents of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. In this respect it can be implemented toward a political solution for Central America.

[Announcer] What will the next step be after this first dialogue that began today with the U.S. Government?

[Zamora] This was a preliminary contact toward establishing a meeting between the two parties.

[Announcer] When and where, Dr Zamora?

[Zamora] This is part of what we discussed, and we are going to keep it a secret.

[Announcer] But will it be soon?

[Zamora] I would say yes.

[Announcer] Will this be held in Colombia or in your country?

[Zamora] Where the talks will take place is also part of the content of our talk, and therefore, I will abstain from making any comment on it.

[Announcer] How long will you stay in Bogota?

[Zamora] I am leaving tomorrow.

[Announcer] Where are you going?

[Zamora] I am going to Central America.

[Announcer] To your country?

[Zamora] If I tried to enter my country legally, I probably would not be alive 24 hours.

[Announcer] Mr Zamora, are you satisfied with the meeting with the U.S. envoy? Let us hope this is the beginning of peace for the region.

[Zamora] That is my wish. I also want to express through your network our front's deep gratitude for the efforts of President Belisario Betancur to try to find peace for Central America. We want to deeply thank President Betancur for the efforts he is making toward that objective. Thank you.

STONE ARRIVES FOR 'URGENT' MEETING WITH OFFICIALS

PA010224 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Richard Stone, President Ronald Reagan's special envoy, arrived this afternoon to hold an urgent 2-hour meeting with government members, especially with members of the Salvadoran Political and Peace Commissions.

U.S. Embassy spokesmen announced this afternoon that Richard Stone will only be in El Salvador for 2 hours. Stone arrived at approximately 1630 today, and immediately hurried to Government House. He was accompanied by Ken Bleakley, the U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires.

Government House had announced yesterday that there would be an urgent meeting, but no further details were given to the press.

It was learned this morning from Bogota dispatches that the U.S. President's envoy met with FDR leader Ruben Zamora in presence of Colombian President Belisario Betancur.

It was confirmed today in Bogota that Ambassador Richard Stone will travel to Managua tomorrow. Stone met yesterday with President Belisario Betancur in Bogota, to discuss the mechanisms that would contribute to the pacification of Central America.

ASSEMBLY EXTENDS STATE OF SIEGE 30 MORE DAYS

PA300225 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1749 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- The National Constituent Assembly again unanimously extended the state of siege for 30 more days as of 1 August, considering it necessary for the nation's security.

The extension was approved in the last few hours during a permanent plenary session that began last Monday.

According to the assembly, the measure will remain in effect because "the conditions that originally prompted the suspension of constitutional guarantees in March 1980 still prevail."

The state of siege suspends freedom of belief, freedom of assembly, free transit, and the inviolability of correspondence, among other things.

MAGANA ANNOUNCES POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS

PA302125 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Excerpts] The date for the presidential election, scheduled for the end of the year, has lost all chance of being realized, President Alvaro Magana told newsmen last night at a Presidential Palace reception. I do not see how can we have elections this year, President Magana told them. We hoped that the new constitution would be ready, but over 40 articles still have to be discussed. I do not think it will be ready before 15 September, President Magana added.

Some political leaders also believe that it will be impossible to hold elections this year.

President Magana told some international news correspondents: I never promised that elections would be held by the end of the year. It was just a hope. I cannot say when are we going to have elections, but at least not before March 1984, he added.

DEFENSE MINISTER VIDES CASANOVA VISITS HONDURAS, U.S.

PA310350 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Jul 83 pp 5, 11

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, reported that Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova was in Puerto Castilla, Honduras, during the weekend to visit the Salvadoran soldiers who are being trained at that military center.

COPREFA also reported that Gen Vides Casanova went to Fort Benning, Georgia, to learn more about the Salvadoran soldiers' training.

In Puerto Castilla, he met with General John W. Vessey, chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff; General Paul S. Gorman, U.S. Army Southern Command commander in chief, John Negroponte, U.S. Ambassador to Honduras; and General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief.
He also met Honduran Defense Minister Colonel Santiago Suazo Castillo and Colonel Jose A. Bueso Rosa, Honduran Armed Forces General Staff chief, for a tour of the training center, where he observed some of the soldiers' training.

On the same day, Gen Vides Casanova went to Fort Benning, accompanied by Gen Gorman, to visit the Salvadoran cadets studying at that military installation.

Vides Casanova was received by Fort Benning's commander, Major General James J. Lindsey.

HAVANA SAYS U.S. FORCES CAUSING UPHEAVAL

FL291656 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1418 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] New forces sent by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Central America have already begun to cause upheavals in the isthmus.

Combat airplanes based on the aircraft carrier "Ranger" forced a small airplane -- hired by U.S. journalists -- to change course when it flew low over the Gulf of Fonseca near the Salvadoran coast.

That operation caused spokesmen from the S vadoran High Command to say that the Gulf of Fonseca is a dangerous zone and to recommend not approaching the area, according to (NOTISAL) news agency.

NEW ARMY CONTINGENT TO BE TRAINED IN HONDURAS

PA300425 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 29 Jul 83 pp 2, 48

[Text] A contingent of Salvadoran officers and troops has left for Puerto Castilla, Honduras, to participate in the professional training course being offered by U.S. Army instructors.

The Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, has reported that the troops who went to Honduras will join the 58 soldiers who have been at the training center since late June.

Once their training has ended, the Salvadoran Army will use these personnel to create a battalion that will be named after General Manuel Jose Arce, a forefather of our nation who created the army and who was the first president of the Central American United Provinces in the last century.

COPREFA CITES GUERRILLA CONFUSION OVER TALKS

PA310125 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 30 Jul 83 pp 4, 11

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, on 28 July, in San Salvador]

[Text] Salvadoran terrorist groups talk about holding a dialogue, yet they cannot reach an agreement in this respect. This only confirms that these groups have differences of opinion and procedure that have prevented a dialogue between Richard Stone and representatives of the extremist groups in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Joaquin Villalobos, an ERP leader, was the person who sabotaged the talks with Stone, persons who knew of Stone's intentions reported.

A meeting had been arranged by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge for 8 July, which according to international dispatches was intended to be the first direct contact between the United States and the Salvadoran subversive groups, although Joaquin Villalobos on many occasions had publicly said that he did not believe in dialogue.

The meeting did not take place because of the obstacles created by the FMLN, which argued that conditions were not right for a dialogue.

Costa Rican newspapers said that the meeting was not held because important sectors of the Salvadoran subversive organizations do not believe in elections as a means of reaching power and therefore are opposed to a dialogue.

The ERP was not represented at the meeting of the subversive leaders who were going to meet with Stone. This corroborates the thesis that the subversive groups are divided on the issue of dialogue with the Salvadoran Government.

On the other hand, the attitude of the Salvadoran Government is entirely different: On behlaf of the government, a Peace Commission has asked the terrorist groups to agree to hold talks that will bring an end to violence and to participate in the country's democratic process.

Msgr Marco Rene Revello, bishop of Santa Ana and also a member of the Peace Commission, said 3 months ago to an influential Venezuelan television network that the Peace Commission is willing to talk to anyone, anywhere and under any conditions, to attain peace for the country. We are prepared to talk to anyone so that we can find a political and democratic solution for El Salvador, Guillermo Trabanino, another member of the Peace Commission, has said. Definitely, the matter of dialogue has dramatically exposed the subversive groups' internal divisions. Besides, for the past 3 years, the FMLN-FDR leaders have used the dialogue issue as their banner in their international tours. But now that they have the opportunity, the extremist leaders appear confused and divided and are shying away from it. For them, dialogue is just part of a strategy to gain time for their idea of a prolonged people's war.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS ON 855 AMNESTIES

PA281315 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Jul 83 pp 4, 31

[Text] Thus far, 855 people have been amnestied, of whom 542 are former defendants and 343 either rebels or collaborators, according to Kirio Waldo Salgado, member of the Amnesty Commission. Salgado added that many people are in the commission's office filling out their amnesty documents. He also said that a Canadian delegation returned to the country this week in order to take another group of amnestied people to Canada, probably in late July or early August.

The commission published an advertisement asking all former defendants to appear before the commission on Sundays, inclusive, because the Canadians and the commission's members have been working to have the amnestied group ready for travel to Canada.

The first group was comprised of 68 amnestied persons with their relatives, and some 50 amnestied persons left in the second group. Another 50 amnestied persons and their relatives left for Australia, but no more amnestied persons will go there.

Some 10 amnestied persons went to Belgium, but no contract was made with the Amnesty Commission, according to the official.

We asked whether any more defendants would be included in the second group, because in the extension of the law it has been established that the amnesty will no longer include them.

Salgado asserted that the immigration programs to Canada and Australia were specifically designed for former defendants, that is, for all the 542 former defendants who wanted to benefit from this program, regardless of whether they have left or are going to leave the country.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS FMLN-FDR NEGOTIATIONS DECLARATION

PA010400 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Declaration to "Latin American Governments and Peoples," from the FMLN-FDR, dated "July 1983"]

[Text] At this time, when we Latin Americans are celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of Liberator Simon Bolivar, the FMLN and the FDR pay tribute to him by expressing their unswerving decision to struggle until we have obtained our country's final freedom and independence.

Bolivar is present. His ideals and example demand that we comply with the unfinished task of attaining Latin America's unity and reaffirm our independence and national sovereignty.

This task is urgent in view of the Reagan administration's warmongering policy of trying to make Central America the battlefield of a most unjust war of aggression. To send a powerful war fleet with thousands of Marines ready to disembark in Central America not only proves the fallacy of President Reagan's statements to the effect that he would not send U.S. troops to Central America, but represents an act of war; it manifests the political intent of his government to base relations with Latin America on threats and force and with an absolute disregard for the principles of self-determination and non-intervention. In view of the gravity of the situation, we feel that the declarations issued after the Cancun meeting by the presidents of Columbia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama, who comprise the Contadora Group, deserve the active support of all peace-loving governments and peoples. The declaration is an important political act which stresses the need to make every possible effort to prevent an irreversible worsening of the already dangerous situation in the region and to open the way to the only solution truly suitable to the interests of the Central American peoples.

In this same spirit, the FSLN's 19 July declaration sets forth the desire for peace of the Nicaraguan people and government.

Our fronts support the broadminded and responsible attitude of the Nicaraguan Government. At the same time, this attitude demands similar conduct from the other party. They should clearly bear in mind that dignity and national sovereignty are not negotiable.

Our fronts state that they are willing to work for a negotiated political solution to our conflict. Therefore, we expect from the U.S. and Salvadoran Governments convincing proof of the same negotiating disposition and the willingness to accept commitments and to make mutual concessions, giving up their intention of unilaterally imposing their will, which will only lead to a dangerous military escalation in El Salvador.

VENCEREMOS CRITICIZES U.S. SHIPS, MANEUVERS

PA292318 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] The Reagan administration's new interventionist step involves the deployment of warships and military maneuvers in Honduras, which have been described as a measure intended to exert pressure. In thus continuing its psychological war with what Reagan describes as measures intended to exert pressure, the United States is moving on a one-way street that can only lead to the regionalization of war in Central America.

It turns out, however, that in his efforts to threaten and cow people who are involved in just struggles for liberation in Central America, Reagan's measures to exert pressure have constantly failed. Still, each of these measures is yet another dangerous step toward regional war in Central America. The distance between threats, intended to exert psychological pressure, and direct military intervention is growing shorter every day.

It is no longer the U.S. ambassador who are governing our countries like pro-consuls; it is no longer the genocidal U.S. weapons, it is no longer the U.S. military advisers in our countries; Reagan is no longer satisfied with establishing military training bases for troops from dictatorships in the region; now, he has taken a new and gravely dangerous step toward war with military maneuvers to be staged in Honduran territory, and with the presence of the most powerful warmongering fleet ever to be deployed to the region, off both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Central America.

These are not routine maneuvers, as Reagan has described them. This is another step toward regional war, involving the landing of U.S. troops on their beachhead, Honduras, and the occupation of our coasts.

The so-called maneuvers will be carried out for 6 months; in other words, were Reagan to schedule two maneuvers per year, the U.S. troops and ships would be soiling our land and waters forever, against the will of our people and in flagrant violation of our sovereignty.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT, PARTIES AGREE ON ELECTION DATE

PA291944 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Good evening, viewers. We will now report on the results of an important meeting held this morning in the presidential palace. According to an agreement reached today between the Guatemalan president and his cabinet and representatives of the leaders of the committees for the organization of political parties, national constituent assembly elections will be held on 1 July 1984.

After a meeting that began at 0900, the press was invited to the Presidential Palace after midday. In the Hall of Mirrors, government spokesman Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro made the announcement and read a communique that was later distributed to the press. President General Efrain Rios Montt, who was accompanied by two representatives of new political groups, expressed his satisfaction at the achieved agreement. Afterward, the journalists interviewed more than 20 political leaders who expressed their complete support for the announced election timetable.

The important meeting was attended by representatives of the traditional political parties and the new groups that are promoting their future registration as political parties. The communique released to the press states:

The representatives of the board of directors of the committees for the organization of political parties, after several talks with the Guatemalan president and members of his cabinet, today unanimously agreed to support the decision adopted by consensus to convoke national constituent assembly elections on 23 March and to hold these on 1 July 1984.

The dates for convoking and holding the national constituent assembly elections were set in accordance with the political views expressed in the talks and taking into account the deeply felt need to undertake an effective political opening, giving new political organizations the opportunity to participate. Despite the general and majority request of the representatives of those new political organizations to hold elections in November or December 1984, they agreed to have this date moved to 1 July 1984.

In the same way, some of the traditional political parties that had initially proposed an election date prior to that agreed upon accepted the previously mentioned date in order to lead to dialogue and national harmony.

The Guatemalan Government expresses its satisfaction with the agreement that was reached today, which will be very positive for the country and marks a new step in the democratization process begun on 23 March.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES 5-POINT AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

PA302110 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Excerpt] A five-point program for immediate action has been outlined in Quetzaltenango by Leopoldo Sandoval Villeda, minister of agriculture, livestock and foodstuffs, for the development of national agriculture. The basic points of the program, which will benefit the peasants and the country in general, are to guarantee food supplies for the next 20 years, to encourage the generation of foreign exchange from agricultural exports, to ensure the proper management and utilization of renewable natural resources, to encourage active and conscientious participation by peasants in the process of rural development in order to strengthen the real democratic process, and to promote the creation of jobs resulting from sustained agricultural activity.

HONDURAS

MEETING WITH NICARAGUAN MINISTER POSTPONED

PA301407 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The meeting that was to take place yesterday between the economy ministers of Honduras and Nicaragua was postponed because Honduran Economy Secretary Leticia Ma-Tay had an accident. This information was provided by Angel Eduardo Ramos, Honduran under secretary for commerce.

Ramos has explained this in view of rumors that the meeting had been postponed for other reasons. He said it would not be suitable to hold the meeting without Ma-Tay, since this was to be a meeting between the two ministers. Regarding commercial relations between the two nations, Ramos said that his government is very much willing to reinitiate talks because an agreement would improve the two countries' balance of payments.

AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR CRITICIZES CONTADORA

PA291343 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Roberto Suazo Tome, Honduran ambassador to El Salvador, disagrees with the statements made by the president and Foreign Minister Paz Barnica. Suazo Tome says that Contadora will not yield any positive results with regard to the situation in Central America.

Suazo Tome says that the efforts of the Contadora foreign ministers will yield no positive results. He says the only solution would be to hold elections in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. The Sandinist regime wants war because it has lost popular support.

HAVANA CITES INCREASED MILITARY PRESENCE

PA291743 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] The United States has continued to increase its military presence in Honduras. Meanwhile, there has been considerable Honduran troop movement on the Las Trojes-Cifuentes road, which runs parallel to the border with Jalapa in the Nicaraguan Department of Nueva Segovia, where former Somozist guardsmen have tried, unsuccessfully, to infiltrate into Nicaragua.

Eighty more U.S. military advisers have arrived in Honduras from the MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. They join the 120 Green Berets who arrived in that Central American country from the U.S. Southern Command in the Panama Canal area. These soldiers are the advance group of more than 4,000 U.S. troops who will participate in military maneuvers beginning this week and continuing almost until January 1984.

General John Vessey, chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff; General Paul Gormon, chief of the U.S. Southern Command; and Salvadoran Defense Minister Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova are also in Honduras. They jointly visited the Puerto Castillo military base.

It has been reported in Washington that the U.S. Senate approved a $7.2 billion budget for military construction in fiscal 1984. Of this sum, $8 million will be allocated for what was described as technical improvement of the Honduran military airport in La Ceiba.

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTS AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS

PA300355 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0210 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Managua, 29 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reported an air raid by four T-33 airplanes over Nicaraguan territory, a rocket attack from an airplane on a Nicaraguan island, and the presence of a U.S. frigate off the western coast of Nicaragua.

A communique issued tonight by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reported that on Thursday an unidentified airplane "coming from Honduran territory" attacked the Nicaraguan island of El Cardon. The aircraft fired three rockets at the island, located 2 km southwest of the port of Corinto, the largest in the Pacific, but missed its mark. The Foreign Ministry added that the rockets hit the sea, where they exploded; no casualties or damage were reported.

The government said that the airplane took a northeastern course, toward Honduran territory, "after perpetrating its criminal act."

The port of Corinto is where three ships -- two Soviet and one East German -- have been unloading wheat, urea, medicine, and vehicles.

The Foreign Ministry added that on 26 July, four T-33 airplanes, "also coming from Honduran territory," flew over the areas of El Tamarindo and Loma Oscura, in Nueva Segovia Department, on the Honduran border.

The Foreign Ministry communique added that "it must be recalled that the Honduran Air Force has several aircraft of the T-33 type."

It also reported that a U.S. Navy warship has been navigating in Nicaraguan territorial waters, in the Pacific Ocean, since 26 July.

The ship, identified as the "Clifton Spragun 992, " has been less than 15 miles from the Nicaraguan coast at times, demonstrating "an attitude that is clearly provocative and offensive to our national sovereignty," the Foreign Ministry added.

The communique concluded: These events once again confirm the grave threats that loom over Nicaragua, as a result of the warmongering and militarist policy being advocated by the Reagan administration and its allies in the region, and represent the most grave and direct threat to peace in the Central American region."

MILITARY FORCES REPORT HONDURAN MOBILIZATION

PA291525 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Managua, ANN -- Nicaraguan military forces have reported the mobilization of Honduran troops near the border with our country, on the road between Cifuentes and Los Trojes. It was reported that, at 0600, our forces detected the mobilization of at least five trucks carrying troops. Another truck arrived at 0700. Cifuentes and Los Trojes were evacuated several weeks ago, and now Somozist groups, which are preparing to carry out constant attacks on our border, are gathering there.

The Cifuentes-Los Trojes road runs parallel to the border, only a few kilometers from it, and the transportation of war materiel and personnel has increased in the past few months, first to support the so-called counterrevolutionary task forces, and then to openly back regular Honduran Army troops.

RADIO REVIEWS REAGAN'S PEACE COUNTERPROPOSAL

PA302235 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jul 83

["Beyond the News" feature: "Reagan's Counterproposal to the Contadora Groups's Peace Plan"]

[Text] U.S. President Reagan has sent to the Contadora Group chiefs of state a counter-proposal on how to solve the Central American crisis. Reagan's proposal contains four points that basically call for multilateral negotiations within the OAS. In his letter, made public in Mexico's capital, Reagan implicitly opposes bilateral dialogues with Nicaragua and objects to the way the efforts of the Contadora Group have been carried out until now.

These are the four points presented by the U.S. President:

The establishing and strengthening of Central American democratic institutions;

Respect for the principle of nonintervention and prohibition of support for subversive elements trying to destablilize other countries;

Removal of the Central American conflict from the arena of East-West confrontation by implementing measures such as the verifiable withdrawal of all foreign military and security advisers and a certifiable freeze on the purchase of offensive weapons;

Cooperation among the Central American countries and their neighbors in order to attain and maintain a level of economic growth that will guarantee the satisfaction of the basic needs of the people.

In his letter, Reagan states that the Cancun peace declaration acknowledges the importance of these important principles but he makes no reference to the Contadora chiefs of state proposal that the Central American countries ban the establishment of military bases in the area by nations from outside the area, as well as the utilization of some states to carry out political and military destabilization actions against other countries of the area.

REJECTION OF AID TO COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES NOTED

PA291505 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Washington -- The U.S. House of Representatives has defeated President Ronald Reagan and repudiated his policy in Central America by cutting aid, by means of a bill to counterrevolutionary bands made up of former Somozist guardsmen who operate from Honduras. The legislative bill also included $80 million in military aid for U.S. allies in the region. These funds, according to the bill, were to be used in operations to curb alleged arms trafficking to Central American guerrillas. The bill will now go to the Senate, where the Republicans have a majority and where those who proposed the bill feel that they don't have much chance of getting it approved. The Reagan administration's arguments were useless in the House of Representatives, where the congressmen expressed concern over the consequences of clandestine activities in the search for a peaceful solution to the Central American problem. The legislators' concern has increased following Reagan's most recent military decision. A large number of Democratic congressmen feel that sending a fleet and approximately 20,000 troops to Central America can only hinder efforts for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

JOURANLISTS TO EXAMINE SOVIET VESSEL'S CARGO

PA292119 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] The Defense Ministry has invited local and foreign journalists to take a first-hand look at the cargo on board the Soviet vessel Aleksandr Ulyanovsk when it arrives at the port of Corinto. Two days ago, U.S. President Reagan, in an attempt to justify his aggressive policy toward Nicaragua, declared that the vessel -- which at that time was crossing the Panama Canal -- was carrying war supplies to Nicaragua. The Soveit vessel Ulyanovsk is transporting machinery for agricultural and industrial use, as well as related products.

HAVANA CITES CASE OF DIPLOMAT ARRESTED IN CANADA

FL291030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Given the aggressiveness of the U.S. Government and its subversion and espionage agencies aimed at Nicaragua, it is not strange that an incident between Canada and Nicaragua is being provoked, said observers in Montreal after studying the irregularities perpetrated by the Canadian Federal Police in arresting Adolfo Palacios, first secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Canada.

The arrest of Palacios violates diplomatic immunity and the Vienna Convention of 1961 but the detention of the diplomat for the alleged possession of cocaine and an illegal firearm was justified by Canada's Ministry of State for External Relations. The Ministry said that Palacios does not enjoy diplomatic immunity and that his diplomatic tour had ended on 12 July 1983. However, Palacios' diplomatic tour had been extended. At the time of his arrest, Palacios had his diplomatic identity card which had been granted by the Canadian Ministry of State for External Relations itself on 25 September 1981 and was valid through 10 September of this year.

In addition, the Canadian Federal Police found no drugs in the Nicaraguan diplomat's automobile or house, which also enjoy diplomatic immunity. The police broke into his house without a warrant and arrested and handcuffed Palacios, causing bruises on one of his wrists. Such unusual actions appear to confirm the opinions of persons who believe it is a maneuver aimed at damaging Nicaraguan-Canadian relations. Until now, the two countries have maintained good diplomatic and commercial ties.

HAVANA CITES EMBASSY PROTEST BY U.S. CITIZENS

FL291958 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] U.S. citizens visiting Nicaragua staged a peaceful demonstration in front of their country's embassy in Managua to protest the Reagan administration's policies in Central America. The Americans visited the diplomatic post for over 1 hour, during which time they had a not-so-friendly conversation with Press Attache (Gilbert Callaway).

The Americans went to the embassy with a specific demand: that the Reagan administration leave Nicaragua in peace and stop its intervention in that Central American country. The only response they received from the press attache was that he was not interested in listening to opinions contrary to U.S. Government policy.

D'ESCOTO VIEWS CONTADORA, C.A. MINISTERS' MEETING

PA311819 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Interview by unidentified reporters with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] [D'Escoto] The Contadora Group foreign ministers have the task of finding concurring points of view. This is what will be discussed at the next meeting, which will also probably take place in Panama this month [as heard]. However, I don't think it will take place before around 16 August.

I come from the meeting with certain optimism, very moderate optimism. It is evident that there has to be a change in the political will of the Reagan administration. There were occasions when it looked as though the Central American delegates wore masks, as if they were not really there and it was Mr Reagan who was there representing some of those foreign ministers. This is the sad truth. I believe it would be difficult to find another era in Central American history with governments so completely submissive to an imperial policy. This makes for a dangerous situation. There was a conspicuous absence at the meeting; but in reality, that absent entity was very much there -- the United States.

It is not a matter of reaching understanding with other Central American nations when those nations are being governed -- practically speaking -- being excessively governed by the United States. It is impossible. However, we continue making efforts. Let us see what happens in the future.

[Reporter] Do you believe there will be a change in attitude by the Reagan government and [words indistinct]

[D'Escoto] What can we do to change that attitude? Talking with the Central Americans does not change it. They are being pressured into ignoring talks that are very important to the international community, into ignoring the beginning of a war here, the utilization of Honduras as a base of aggression.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, Nicaragua accepted a multilateral dialogue in the 19 July proposal. What was the specific position at the Contadora meeting when the Central American countries formed a bloc to present a proposal -- in addition to Nicaragua's 19 July proposal -- calling for a nonaggression pact between Honduras and Nicaragua? What was the specific position?

[D'Escoto] We certainly reiterated Nicaragua's 19 July proposals and added a few more dealing with the principles of international law that should guide relations among states. We also discussed other types of commitments to promote harmonic coexistence among the countries of the region. There is tremendous coincidence between the Nicaraguan and Cancun documents. In the analysis we made before going to Panama, we concluded that other countries, although they formally approve of the Cancun document, in fact want to nullify it. We propsoed the utilization of the Cancun document as an agenda.

[Reporter] The international news agencies have expressed pessimism about the results of this foreign ministers' meeting in Panama, claiming that more specific agreements for peace in Central America had been expected. They say that there is another way: Through UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. These news agencies also say that the United States wants the OAS to discuss the Central American situation. What are your conclusions in this regard?

[D'Escoto] Last night I heard a report on a commentary made by U.S. President Reagan to the effect that, in his opinion, the OAS is the best forum [to discuss Central America]. The report claimed that Reagan believes the OAS would be a better forum because the Contadora Group is neutral, neutral toward both sides, and the appropriate forum would be one on the side of the Unted States, supporting everything it is doing in Honduras. It is strange, but this is how we received the report in Panama. I don't think any other commentary could say it better. He wants a forum where he believes he has unconditional supporters. It would not be difficult to imagine who these unconditional supporters would be.

[Reporter] Regarding Stone's visit tomorrow, what is expected from this visit?

[D'Escoto] It is their turn to speak. At the last meeting it was we who spoke, basically. On that occasion he said he had come to listen, to learn. We told him we had an open-door policy and he could come whenever he was ready. We are now reiterating this position. I believe he is coming Monday.

REAGAN POLITICAL DEFEAT IN CONGRESS REPORTED

PA291731 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives has inflicted an important defeat on President Ronald Reagan by approving a bill suspending all types of aid to the counterrevolutionary forces operating out of Honduras and Costa Rica that are trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

The bill, which was approved by a vote of 228 to 195, urges President Reagan to work with the OAS for a peaceful solution to the Central American conflicts. It has been learned that several Republican representatives joined the Democrats to approve the bill. During the heated debates in the House, several Democratic leaders accused Reagan of violating U.S. and international laws by supporting an external invasion of a sovereign country. It was also stated that the White House decision to send a naval fleet and more than 20,000 soldiers to Central America hinders the Contadora Group's peace efforts. The bill approved by the House of Representatives must now go to the Senate, where it is taken for granted that the Republican majority will reject it.

More on Aid Cutoff

FL291332 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] The political defeat suffered by President Ronald Reagan when the House of Representatives voted 228 to 195 to suspend all military and intelligence aid to the counterrevolutionaries operating against Nicaragua from Honduras and Costa Rica has been called a decisive setback.

The news agencies noted the enormous effort Reagan's government made to keep the measure from passing. The AP news agency considers that, because of negative political repercussions for the Yankee President, the measure is an important victory against White House strategy toward Central America.

The measure adopted urged Reagan to seek a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict and prohibits all military aid to counterrevolutionary forces operating in Nicaragua.

Covert Aid Defeat Commentary

FL291302 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1140 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Commentary by Miguel Toirac and Javier Rodriguez on "Revista de la Manana" program -- live]

[Excerpts] [Toirac] As you know, U.S. President Ronald Reagan sustained a great political defeat yesterday in a vote taken in the House of Representatives on a bill to suspend all military and intelligence aid for the counterrevolutionaries operating from Honduras and Costa Rica against Nicaragua. The vote was 228 to 195. However, whether the bill becomes law or not, we consider it a defeat for Reagan because in one way or another, this has demonstrated that there is a concensus to disagree with Reagan's Central American policy, in addition to worldwide repercussions.

[Rodriguez] Toirac, I believe it is a political defeat because we all know the pressure that Ronald Reagan's government exerted to prevent the approval of this bill in the House of Representatives. In spite of the amendments and in spite of all the pressure exerted, the fact is that this bill was approved to end the covert aid, as they call it, the aid for the counterrevolutionary Somozist groups that operate against the Nicaraguan government from Honduras. We all know that tens of millions of dollars have been supplied to the Somozist counterrevolutionary groups in arms, equipment, and every type of military aid, and that this aid has been increasing to the point of permanent cooperation to maintain a series of logistical bases in Honduras. In the last few weeks, the situation has been worsened by direct U.S. intervention in these activities.

[Toriac] This means that the enormous pressure that Reagan's government exerted to prevent the approval by the House of Representatives at the same time represents the unwillingness that exists to approve his Central American policy. However, as you said it is unlikely that the bill will become law because it will have to overcome the Senate's Republican majority opposition and the possibility of President Ronald Reagan's veto.

PURPORTED U.S. PLAN TO INVADE NICARAGUA CITED

FL282320 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2003 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] The United States plans an invasion of Nicaragua in September, Venezuelan political leader (Jose Vicente Rangel) has stated in Caracas. (Rangel) stressed that, according to his information, the invasion plan is ready and that it includes a military attack using Marines, and another attack using mercenaries, former Somozist guardsmen, and Honduran Army forces. He added that Washington's plan also includes the landing of military forces in El Salvador and an airborne operation over Cuba.

The Venezuelan political leader said that it was this information that gave rise to the urgent meeting of the Contadora Group in Cancun, where the presidents of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama agreed to a peace plan for a negotiated political settlement of the conflicts in Central America.

MARINE AT U.S. INTERESTS SECTION EXPELLED

PA301819 Paris AFP in Spanish 1728 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Havana, 30 Jul (AFP) -- Diplomatic sources said today that a U.S. Marine from the unit assigned to guard the U.S. diplomatic office in Havana has been expelled from Cuba. The Cuban Foreign Ministry asked him to leave the country within 24 hours. This is the first known case of an expulsion of a member of the U.S. interests section in Havana since it opened in 1977.

John Baerwal, the expelled Marine, is a corporal from Baltimore. He was accused by Cuban neighbors of wearing an undershirt reading "Cuba si, Fidel no," something that, according to the Foreign Ministry, "arouses passions," the sources said. The expelled man admitted that he has worn that undershirt when taking out the garbage and, on one occasion, when he went to the beach.

The U.S. interests section in Havana operates with U.S. personnel registered with the Swiss Embassy. It functions in the old U.S. Embassy building, which is guarded by a small, 8-member unit of U.S. Marines.

PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST LEADER INTERVIEWED

PA310415 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Interview with Puerto Rican Socialist Party Secretary General Carlos Callisa conducted by Pedro Martinez Pirez]

[Excerpts] [Martinez Pirez] In today's interview, our guest is Carlos Callisa, secretary general [as heard] of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, who was a guest at the events commemorating the 30th anniversary of the historic assault on Moncada Barracks. The day 25 July 1983, that is, one day before 26 July, marked the 85th anniversary of the U.S. military occupation of Puerto Rico. What conclusions can be drawn today from the consequences of this occupation?

[Callisa] Well, I think that the 85 years of the U.S. colonial system in Puerto Rico can be summarized in the following way: A profound economic crisis, the exodus and emigration of close to 2 million Puerto Ricans to the United States due to the economic and social conditions in the country, the decay of Puerto Rican society, social problems, including drug addiction, crime, and others, and the absence of fundamental rights for Puerto Ricans, such as adequate education and health services. Our economic dependence is constantly increasing. We are a dependent economy with a duty to implement programs to solve the country's social and political problems.

Puerto Rico plays an important role in Yankee plans in Central America. The Yankees have the largest naval base in the entire area in Puerto Rico. They are planning to reactivate an air force base that was the largest in the Caribbean during World War II. They are transferring military communications towers that are installed in Panama to Puerto Rico. They are planning to transfer military installations in Panama that must be withdrawn from the canal area by virtue of the Panama Canal Treaty; included among these is the School of the Americas, a factory of murderers and torturers that they have had in Panama for many years. This has resulted in protest and strong public opposition to this remilitarization, which also includes the recruitment by law of Puerto Ricans for the U.S. Army. It also includes doubling the number of members of the National Guard, an arm of the U.S. Army, which is made up of Puerto Ricans who have participated in the maneuvers in Honduras and other places.

So far we can say that the campaign against this remiliarization has had a very positive result because plans to resettle the School of the Americas in Puerto Rico were withdrawn. We think that, to the extent that this campaign is intensified, many of these military plans will be dropped.

FIDEL GIVES RECEPTION FOR MONCADA DELEGATIONS

FL291256 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers has given a reception in honor of the delegations invited to the ceremonies commemorating the 30th Moncada Anniversary. At the ceremony, which took place at the Palace of the Revolution, Fidel was joined by Commanders of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Guillermo Garcia, and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, all members of the Politburo, and by other representatives of the party and the state. Also present at the ceremony were Dr. Juan Bosch, former president of the Dominican Republic; Lieutenant General Valdimir Shatalov, twice decorated hero of the Soviet Union; Gabriel Garcia Marquez, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature; and members of the diplomatic corps in our country.

DRA DELEGATION GIVES KARMAL GREETINGS TO CASTRO

LD302211 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The congratulatory message from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of attack on Moncada Barracks, was presented the day before yesterday by Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and head of the Afghan party delegation, to Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the Council of State, at a meeting.

At this meeting, while the DRA ambassador to Cuba and members of the DRA party delegation were also present, views were exchanged on topics of interest in a comradely and cordial atmosphere.

SOVIET, GDR DELEGATIONS DEPART AFTER FESTIVITIES

FL290250 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Foreign delegations invited to the festivities for the 30th anniversary of the assault on Moncada Barracks began leaving for their respective countries late this afternoon. Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, members of the party Politburo and vice presidents of the Council of State, along with other leaders, were on hand to bid farewell to the GDR delegation led by Guenter Mittag, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, at Jose Marti International Airport.

The Soviet delegation, led by Mikhail Solomentsev, candidate-member of the CPSU Politburo and first secretary of the party in Moscow, was seen off by Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the party Provincial Committee in Havana City, Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the Provincial Committee in Havana, and other Cuban officials.

Other Delegations Depart

FL301814 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Delegations invited to the 26 July festivities are continuing to depart. Guillermo Garcia, member of the Politburo and minister of transportation, bade farewell at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport to Miklos Ovari, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Politburo, who headed his country's delegation.

(Raymundo Narciso), member of Portugal's Communist Party Central Committee, also departed for home.

The Mozambique delegation, headed by Jose Oscar Monteiro, member of the FRELIMO Party Political Bureau and minister of justice, was seen off by Sergio del Valle, member of the Politburo and minister of public health.

Another delegation which departed yesterday was the one led by Francois Xavier Katali, member of the Congolese Labor Party Political Bureau and minister of the interior, who was seen off by Cuban Domestic Trade Minister Manual Vila Sosa, among others.

Muhammad Najib as-Sayyid Ahmad, member of Syria's Ba'th Party Central Committee and minister of education, was seen off by Ernesto Gomez, chief of the Middle East Section of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee.

Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Politburo, bade farewell at the air terminal to Nur Ahmad Nur, member of Afghanistan's People's Democratic Party Politburo and vice chairman of the Afghan Council of State.

MONTANE OROPESA, SYRIA'S AHMAD SIGN AGREEMENT

FL291254 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, member of the Politburo and Secretariat and chief of the Central Committee Foreign Relations Department, has signed a cooperation agreement with Syria's Arab Socialist Renaissance Party -- Ba'th -- which will be in effect during the years 1983 and 1984.

Muhammad Najib Ahmad, member of the Ba'th Central Committee and minister of education, signed the document for the Syrian side during a ceremony held in Havana.

FARAH DELEGATION MEETS WITH YASIR 'ARAFAT

FL291918 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1819 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Palestinian resistance leader Yasir 'Arafat has received a Cuban delegation led by Levi Farah, Cuban minister for construction abroad. The Palestinian news agency WAFA reported that the two sides discussed Cuban-Palestinian relations and the current international and Arab situations, particularly in the Middle East and Central America.

TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH VIETNAM

FL291823 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] A transportation cooperation agreement has been signed by Revolutionary Commander Guillermo Garcia Frias, member of the Politburo and transportation minister, and Vietnamese Communications and Transportation Minister Dong Si Nguven. The agreement, which was signed in a climate of frank camaraderie befitting the relations between the two countries, includes the establishment of a direct maritime line and cooperation and aid on railroads.

BLAS ROCA AWARDED ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP BY CSSR

FL292100 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The Order of Friendship from the CSSR has been conferred on Blas Roca Calderio, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, by the president of that fraternal country, Gustav Husak.